

1 House Joint Resolution

2 A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1 of
 3 Article IX and the creation of Section 31 of Article XII
 4 of the State Constitution to revise class size
 5 requirements for public schools and to provide an
 6 effective date.

7
 8 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

9
 10 That the following amendment to Section 1 of Article IX and
 11 the creation of Section 31 of Article XII of the State
 12 Constitution are agreed to and shall be submitted to the
 13 electors of this state for approval or rejection at the general
 14 election to be held in November 2010:

15 ARTICLE IX
 16 EDUCATION

17 SECTION 1. Public education.--

18 (a) The education of children is a fundamental value of
 19 the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a
 20 paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the
 21 education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate
 22 provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe,
 23 secure, and high quality system of free public schools that
 24 allows students to obtain a high quality education and for the
 25 establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of
 26 higher learning and other public education programs that the
 27 needs of the people may require. To assure that children
 28 attending public schools obtain a high quality education, the

29 legislature shall make adequate provision to ensure that, by the
 30 beginning of the 2010-2011 ~~2010~~ school year and for each school
 31 year thereafter, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so
 32 that:

33 (1) The average ~~maximum~~ number of students at the school
 34 level who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public
 35 school classrooms for prekindergarten through grade 3 does not
 36 exceed 18 students and the maximum number of students assigned
 37 to each teacher in an individual classroom does not exceed 21
 38 students;

39 (2) The average ~~maximum~~ number of students at the school
 40 level who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public
 41 school classrooms for grades 4 through 8 does not exceed 22
 42 students and the maximum number of students assigned to each
 43 teacher in an individual classroom does not exceed 27 students;
 44 and

45 (3) The average ~~maximum~~ number of students at the school
 46 level who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public
 47 school classrooms for grades 9 through 12 does not exceed 25
 48 students.

49
 50 The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to
 51 extracurricular classes. Payment of the costs associated with
 52 reducing class size to meet these requirements is the
 53 responsibility of the state and not of local school ~~schools~~
 54 districts. ~~Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the~~
 55 ~~legislature shall provide sufficient funds to reduce the average~~
 56 ~~number of students in each classroom by at least two students~~

HJR 919

2009

57 ~~per year until the maximum number of students per classroom does~~
58 ~~not exceed the requirements of this subsection.~~

59 (b) Every four-year old child in Florida shall be provided
60 by the State a high quality prekindergarten ~~pre-kindergarten~~
61 learning opportunity in the form of an early childhood
62 development and education program which shall be voluntary, high
63 quality, free, and delivered according to professionally
64 accepted standards. An early childhood development and education
65 program means an organized program designed to address and
66 enhance each child's ability to make age appropriate progress in
67 an appropriate range of settings in the development of language
68 and cognitive capabilities and emotional, social, regulatory,
69 and moral capacities through education in basic skills and such
70 other skills as the Legislature may determine to be appropriate.

71 (c) The early childhood education and development programs
72 provided by reason of subsection ~~subparagraph~~ (b) shall be
73 implemented no later than the beginning of the 2005 school year
74 through funds generated in addition to those used for existing
75 education, health, and development programs. Existing education,
76 health, and development programs are those funded by the State
77 as of January 1, 2002, that provided for child or adult
78 education, health care, or development.

79 ARTICLE XII

80 SCHEDULE

81 SECTION 31. Class size requirements for public
82 schools.--The amendment to Section 1 of Article IX, which
83 requires that the class size requirements for public schools
84 shall be based on the average number of students at the school

HJR 919

2009

85 level who are assigned to a teacher in specified grades, and
86 this section, if submitted to the electors of this state for
87 approval or rejection at the next general election, shall take
88 effect upon approval by the electors and shall operate
89 retroactively to the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
91 placed on the ballot:

92 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

93 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1

94 ARTICLE XII, SECTION 31

95 REVISION OF THE CLASS SIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC
96 SCHOOLS.--Proposes amendment of the State Constitution to
97 require that the class size requirements for public schools
98 shall remain at the current limits but be based on the average
99 number of students at the school level, rather than on the
100 maximum number of students, who are assigned to each teacher who
101 is teaching in public school classrooms in specified grades. For
102 public school classrooms for prekindergarten through grade 3 and
103 for grades 4 through 8, but not for grades 9 through 12, limits
104 the maximum number of students who may be assigned to each
105 teacher in an individual classroom. Deletes requirements for
106 funding annual reductions in class size to achieve the maximum
107 class size limits. Clarifies that these class size requirements
108 apply by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year and for each
109 school year thereafter. Schedules these revisions to take effect
110 upon approval by the electors of this state and to operate
111 retroactively to the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.