

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 next  
 14 general election or at an earlier special election specifically  
 15 authorized by law for that purpose:

16 ARTICLE IX

17 EDUCATION

18 SECTION 1. Public education.—

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

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

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

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

46 (3) Within each public school, the average ~~maximum~~ number  
47 of students ~~who are~~ assigned per class to each teacher who is  
48 teaching ~~in public school classrooms for~~ grades 9 through 12  
49 does not exceed 25 students and the maximum number of students  
50 assigned to each teacher in an individual classroom does not  
51 exceed 30 students.

52  
53 The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to  
54 extracurricular or virtual classes. Payment of the costs  
55 associated with meeting ~~reducing class size to meet~~ these  
56 requirements is the responsibility of the state and not of local

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57 school ~~schools~~ districts. ~~Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal~~  
 58 ~~year,~~ The legislature shall provide sufficient funds to maintain  
 59 ~~reduce~~ the average number of students required by ~~in each~~  
 60 ~~classroom by at least two students per year until the maximum~~  
 61 ~~number of students per classroom does not exceed the~~  
 62 ~~requirements of~~ this subsection.

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

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

83 ARTICLE XII

84 SCHEDULE



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113 | schedules these revisions to take effect upon approval by the  
114 | electors of this state and to operate retroactively to the  
115 | beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.