

By Senator Abruzzo

25-00278-13

2013198

Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article IX of the State Constitution to establish minimum salaries for full-time public school teachers.

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

That the following amendment to Section 1 of Article IX of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE IX

EDUCATION

SECTION 1. Public education.—

(a) The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education and for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of higher learning and other public education programs that the needs of the people may require. To assure that children attending public schools obtain a high quality education, the legislature shall make adequate provision to ensure that, by the beginning of the 2010 school year, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so that:

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30 (1) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each
31 teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for
32 prekindergarten through grade 3 does not exceed 18 students;

33 (2) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each
34 teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 4
35 through 8 does not exceed 22 students; and

36 (3) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each
37 teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 9
38 through 12 does not exceed 25 students.

39
40 The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to
41 extracurricular classes. Payment of the costs associated with
42 reducing class size to meet these requirements is the
43 responsibility of the state and not of local school ~~schools~~
44 districts. Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the
45 legislature shall provide sufficient funds to reduce the average
46 number of students in each classroom by at least two students
47 per year until the maximum number of students per classroom does
48 not exceed the requirements of this subsection.

49 (b) By 2015, the salary for a new full-time teacher in a
50 public school must be at least equal to the national average
51 salary for a new full-time teacher in a public school, as
52 provided by law. By 2015, the average salary for an experienced
53 full-time teacher in a public school must be at least equal to
54 the national average salary for an experienced full-time teacher
55 in a public school, as provided by law. Any increase in the
56 salaries for new full-time teachers and for experienced full-
57 time teachers in a public school, as a result of adjustments
58 required by this subsection, is independent of employee benefits

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59 and may not alter, jeopardize, or decrease existing employee
60 benefits. The state, rather than the school districts, shall
61 fund any salary increase required by this subsection. Nothing in
62 this subsection shall impair collective bargaining.

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

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

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
84 placed on the ballot:

85 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

86 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1

87 MINIMUM SALARIES FOR NEW AND EXPERIENCED FULL-TIME TEACHERS

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88 IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—This proposed amendment to the State
89 Constitution sets minimum salaries for new and experienced full-
90 time teachers in public schools. By 2015, the minimum salary for
91 a new full-time teacher in a public school must be at least the
92 national average salary for new full-time teachers in public
93 schools. By 2015, the average salary for an experienced full-
94 time teacher in a public school must be at least the national
95 average salary for experienced full-time teachers in public
96 schools. The salary adjustments required by this amendment are
97 independent of employee benefits and must not result in
98 decreased employee benefits. The state, rather than the school
99 districts, must fund any required salary increases.