

HR 1049

2019

House Resolution

A resolution urging the Florida Legislature to evaluate the use of lottery funds to support public education in this state.

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 1 of the State Constitution states that "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," and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 1 of the State Constitution further states that "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," and

WHEREAS, by a two-to-one margin, Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing the state to operate a lottery for the purpose of generating additional funds for education, and

WHEREAS, it was the intent of the voters that lottery-generated funds are to support public education and increase public education funding, rather than supplant it, and

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26 WHEREAS, currently, a total of 73.1 percent of lottery
27 proceeds are used for purposes other than the support of
28 Florida's public education, and

29 WHEREAS, the 10 lowest-performing school districts in the
30 state include Gadsden County, Jefferson County, Bradford County,
31 Desoto County, Hamilton County, Glades County, Hardee County,
32 Franklin County, Highlands County, and Putnam County school
33 districts, and, of those 10 counties, two were severely impacted
34 by Hurricane Michael and are in need of additional funding, and

35 WHEREAS, on October 29, 2018, the Gadsden County School
36 Board passed a resolution calling on the Legislature to evenly
37 split lottery funds between prize winners and funding for public
38 education, which would result in an increased funding for our
39 state's schools without raising taxes or diverting funds from
40 other critical needs, and

41 WHEREAS, evenly splitting lottery funds between prize
42 winners and funding for our state's public education would
43 increase the state's spending on education by 18.95 percent
44 above the current 26.9 percent of lottery funds currently used
45 to support public education, and

46 WHEREAS, the Gadsden County School District resolution
47 calls for an 18.95 percent increase in the amount of lottery
48 funds used to support education in this state, with that
49 increase being allotted to the 10 lowest performing school
50 districts in the state, NOW, THEREFORE,

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52 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
53 Florida:

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55 That Florida Legislature is urged to evaluate how the state
56 used lottery funds to support public education from 1987 to the
57 present, whether as an increase of education funding as the
58 voters intended or to supplant education funding, and present
59 its findings to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
60 the House of Representatives, and evaluate the resolution and
61 proposal by the Gadsden County School Board.