

Amendment No. 1

Commissioner Levesque offered the following:

Amendment (with ballot statement and title amendments)

Remove line(s) 11-37 and insert:

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 and every child deserves an equal opportunity to obtain a high quality education regardless of his or her family's income, religion, or race. 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 uniformly funded ~~uniform~~, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public education that provides options for students to choose the setting that best meets their education needs, including: charter schools, magnet schools, virtual schools, home education, scholarships to private schools, and other programs. ~~schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education and~~ Adequate provision shall be made by law for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of

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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:

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

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

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

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

(b) Every four-year old child in Florida shall be provided by the State a high quality pre-kindergarten learning opportunity in the form of an early childhood development and

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education program which shall be voluntary, high quality, free, and delivered according to professionally accepted standards. An early childhood development and education program means an organized program designed to address and enhance each child's ability to make age appropriate progress in an appropriate range of settings in the development of language and cognitive capabilities and emotional, social, regulatory and moral capacities through education in basic skills and such other skills as the Legislature may determine to be appropriate.

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

== B A L L O T S T A T E M E N T A M E N D M E N T ==

Remove lines 40-51 and insert:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1

OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE A HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION.--Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to provide that every child deserves an equal opportunity to obtain a high quality education regardless of his or her family's income, religion, or race; to provide that adequate provision must be made by law for a high quality system of free public education that provides

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options for students to choose the setting that best meets their
education needs.

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

Remove lines 1-7 and insert:

Resolution of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission

A resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article IX
of the State Constitution to provide for uniformity of funding
for education options.