

1 Resolution of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
2 A resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1 of
3 Article IX of the State Constitution to make the class
4 size limitations applicable to school averages and to
5 create limited flexibility in the number of students
6 assigned to each teacher.

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8 Be It Resolved by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission:

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

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.

28 (b) To assure that children attending public schools
29 obtain a high quality education, the legislature shall make

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

33 (1) The school average ~~maximum~~ number of students who are
34 assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school
35 classrooms for prekindergarten through grade 3 does not exceed
36 18 students and the maximum number of students who are assigned
37 to each teacher does not exceed 23 students;

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

43 (3) The school average ~~maximum~~ number of students who are
44 assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school
45 classrooms for grades 9 through 12 does not exceed 25 students
46 and the maximum number of students who are assigned to each
47 teacher does not exceed 30 students.

48
49 The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to
50 extracurricular or virtual classes. Payment of the costs
51 associated with reducing class size to meet these requirements
52 is the responsibility of the state and not of local school
53 ~~schools~~ districts. Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the
54 legislature shall provide sufficient funds to reduce the average
55 number of students in each classroom by at least two students
56 per year until the school average class size for each of the
57 grade groupings ~~maximum number of students per classroom~~ does
58 not exceed the requirements of this subsection.

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

71 ~~(d)~~(e) The early childhood education and development
72 programs provided by reason of 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 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
80 placed on the ballot:

81 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

82 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1

83 SCHOOL AVERAGE CLASS SIZE.--Under this amendment to the
84 State Constitution, compliance with the existing class size
85 limits will be based on the average number of students per
86 teacher at a school. Currently, compliance is based on the
87 number of students assigned to each teacher. However, the

88 maximum number of students for each teacher will not exceed: 23
89 for prekindergarten through grade 3; 27 for grades 4 through 8;
90 and 30 for grades 9 through 12.