

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4
5 By: Senator A. Clark

SJR 5

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7 **SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

8 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION
9 PROVIDING THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL BE THE SOLE
10 AND EXCLUSIVE EVALUATOR OF WHETHER THE SYSTEM OF FREE
11 PUBLIC SCHOOLS SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE
12 ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION
17 PROVIDING THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL
18 BE THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE EVALUATOR OF
19 WHETHER THE SYSTEM OF FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
20 SATISFIES THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION.

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23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
24 STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL
25 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

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27 That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of
28 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state
29 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives
30 and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election
31 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of
32 the State of Arkansas, to wit:

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34 SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 14, § 1, is amended to read
35 as follows:

36 § 1. Free school system.



1 (a)(1) Intelligence and virtue being the safeguards of liberty and the
 2 bulwark of a free and good government, the State shall ever maintain a
 3 general, suitable and efficient system of free public schools and shall adopt
 4 all suitable means to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities
 5 of education.

6 (2) The specific intention of this amendment is to authorize
 7 that in addition to existing constitutional or statutory provisions the
 8 General Assembly and/or public school districts may spend public funds for
 9 the education of persons over twenty-one (21) years of age and under six (6)
 10 years of age, as may be provided by law, and no other interpretation shall be
 11 given to it.

12 (b) The General Assembly shall be the sole and exclusive evaluator of
 13 whether the system of free public schools satisfies the requirements of this
 14 Constitution, including without limitation determining whether the system of
 15 free public schools complies with:

16 (1) Subdivision (a)(1) of this section; and

17 (2) Article 2 of this constitution.

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 19 SECTION 2. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed
 20 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election
 21 ballot:

22 (1) The title of this joint resolution shall be the ballot
 23 title; and

24 (2) The popular name shall be "A Proposed Constitutional
 25 Amendment Providing that the General Assembly Shall Be the Sole and Exclusive
 26 Evaluator of Whether the System of Free Public Schools Satisfies the
 27 Requirements of the Arkansas Constitution."