

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas Constitution.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

SJR 17

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5 By: Senator Bisbee

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8 **SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

9 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 14 OF THE
10 ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW THE GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY MORE DISCRETION WITH RESPECT TO
12 PROVIDING A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE
13 STATE.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 14 OF
17 THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW THE
18 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MORE DISCRETION WITH
19 RESPECT TO PROVIDING A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC
20 EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

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23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH 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 Senators and
30 Representatives, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the
31 election, adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the
32 Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

33
34 SECTION 1. Article 14 of the Arkansas Constitution is amended to read
35 as follows:

36 § 1. Free school system.



1 (a) 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~~ may provide a system of ~~free~~ public schools
4 and ~~shall~~ may adopt ~~all~~ suitable means to secure to the people the advantages
5 and opportunities of education.

6 (b) The specific intention of this amendment is to authorize that in
7 addition to existing constitutional or statutory provisions the General
8 Assembly ~~and/or~~ and public school districts may spend public funds for the
9 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
13 § 2. School fund - Use - Purposes.

14 No money or property belonging to the public school fund, or to this
15 State for the benefit of schools or universities, shall ever be used for any
16 other than for the respective purposes to which it belongs.

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18 § 3. School district tax - Budget - Approval of tax rate by electors.

19 The General Assembly shall provide for the support of common schools by
20 general law, ~~including an annual per capita tax of one dollar, to be assessed~~
21 ~~on every male inhabitant of this State over the age of twenty one years;~~ and
22 school districts are hereby authorized to levy by a vote of the qualified
23 electors respectively thereof an annual tax for the maintenance of schools,
24 the erection and equipment of school buildings and the retirement of existing
25 indebtedness, the amount of such tax to be determined in the following
26 manner:

27 The Board of Directors of each school district shall prepare, approve
28 and make public not less than sixty (60) days in advance of the annual school
29 election a proposed budget of expenditures deemed necessary to provide for
30 the foregoing purposes, together with a rate of tax levy sufficient to
31 provide the funds therefor, including the rate under any continuing levy for
32 the retirement of indebtedness. If a majority of the qualified voters in said
33 school district voting in the annual school election shall approve the rate
34 of tax so proposed by the Board of Directors, then the tax at the rate so
35 approved shall be collected as provided by law. In the event a majority of
36 said qualified electors voting in said annual school election shall

1 disapprove the proposed rate of tax, then the tax shall be collected at the
2 rate approved in the last preceding annual school election.

3 Provided, that no such tax shall be appropriated for any other purpose
4 nor to any other district than that for which it is levied.

5
6 § 4. Supervision of schools.

7 (a) The supervision of public schools and the execution of the laws
8 regulating the same shall be vested in and confided to such officers as may
9 be provided for by the General Assembly.

10 (b) The General Assembly shall have the exclusive authority to
11 determine by law any structure, governance, and costs of any system of public
12 education which may be provided in the state.

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14 SECTION 2. This amendment becomes effective on January 1, 2005.

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