

**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 20

4
5 By: Senator Holt

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

9 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 14 OF THE
10 ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO GIVE LOCAL CONTROL,
11 MAINTENANCE, AND SUPERVISION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO
12 LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION; TO REQUIRE THE SUPPORT
13 OF PUBLIC EDUCATION; AND TO ALLOW THE GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY TO SPEND PUBLIC FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF
15 EDUCATION.

Subtitle

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18 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 14 OF
19 THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO GIVE LOCAL
20 CONTROL, MAINTENANCE, AND SUPERVISION OF
21 PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO LOCAL BOARDS OF
22 EDUCATION.

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25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
26 STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL
27 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

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

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36 SECTION 1. Article 14 of the Arkansas Constitution is amended to read



1 as follows:

2 § 1. Free school system.

3 ~~(a) Intelligence and virtue being the safeguards of liberty and the~~
 4 ~~bulwark of a free and good government, the State shall ever maintain a~~
 5 ~~general, suitable and efficient system of free public schools and shall adopt~~
 6 ~~all suitable means to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities~~
 7 ~~of education. A system of free public schools shall be maintained, controlled~~
 8 ~~and supervised by local boards of directors and supported by revenues~~
 9 ~~collected by those residing in each district which shall be no less than the~~
 10 ~~uniform rate of ad valorem property taxes required by Amendment 74.~~

11 (b) The General Assembly may spend public funds for the support of
 12 free public school.

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

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20 § 2. School fund - Use - Purposes.

21 No money or property belonging to ~~the public school fund~~ school
 22 district, or to this State for the benefit of schools or universities, shall
 23 ever be used for any other than for the respective purposes to which it
 24 belongs.

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

27 The General Assembly ~~shall~~ may provide for the support of common
 28 schools by general law, ~~including an annual per capita tax of one dollar, to~~
 29 ~~be assessed on every male inhabitant of this State over the age of twenty-one~~
 30 ~~years; and school districts are hereby authorized to~~ shall levy by a vote of
 31 the qualified electors respectively thereof an annual tax for the maintenance
 32 of schools, the erection and equipment of school buildings and the retirement
 33 of existing indebtedness, the amount of such tax to be determined in the
 34 following manner:

35 The Board of Directors of each school district shall prepare, approve
 36 and make public not less than sixty (60) days in advance of the annual school

1 election a proposed budget of expenditures deemed necessary to provide for
2 the foregoing purposes, together with a rate of tax levy sufficient to
3 provide the funds therefor, including the rate under any continuing levy for
4 the retirement of indebtedness. If a majority of the qualified voters in said
5 school district voting in the annual school election shall approve the rate
6 of tax so proposed by the Board of Directors, then the tax at the rate so
7 approved shall be collected as provided by law. In the event a majority of
8 said qualified electors voting in said annual school election shall
9 disapprove the proposed rate of tax, then the tax shall be collected at the
10 rate approved in the last preceding annual school election.

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

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14 § 4. Supervision of schools.

15 The supervision of public schools and the execution of the laws
16 regulating the same shall be vested in and confided to ~~such officers as may~~
17 ~~be provided for by the General Assembly~~ local school boards of directors.

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

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