

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0007

School finance and local control.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Scott and Representative(s)
Anderson, R., Hageman, Iekel and Paseneaux

A BILL

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION proposing to amend the Wyoming
2 Constitution; providing for the distribution of funds to
3 school districts; establishing local control of schools in
4 locally elected school boards; and modifying required
5 attendance.

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7 *BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING,*
8 *two-thirds of all the members of the two houses, voting*
9 *separately, concurring therein:*

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11 **Section 1.** The following proposal to amend Wyoming
12 Constitution, Article 7, Section 9 is proposed for
13 submission to the electors of the State of Wyoming at the
14 next general election for approval or rejection to become
15 valid as a part of the Constitution if ratified by a
16 majority of the electors at the election:

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2 **Article 7, Section 9. Taxation for schools; local**
3 **control.**

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5 (a) The legislature shall make such further provision
6 by taxation or otherwise, as with the income arising from
7 the general school fund will create and maintain a thorough
8 and efficient system of public schools, adequate to the
9 proper instruction of all youth of the state, between the
10 ages of six and twenty-one years, free of charge; and in
11 view of such provision so made, the legislature shall
12 require that every child of sufficient physical and mental
13 ability shall attend a public school during the period
14 between six and eighteen years for a time ~~equivalent to~~
15 ~~three years~~ specified by the legislature, unless educated
16 by other means.

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18 (b) The legislature shall provide a formula for the
19 distribution of funds to the school districts. If the
20 formula results in annual revenue to any school district's
21 general fund less than ninety-five percent (95%) of the
22 state average on a per pupil basis, excluding revenues
23 dedicated to capital construction and the funds provided
24 for any items funded separately in whole or in part on the

1 basis of actual costs, then the differences in revenues
2 must be justified on a cost basis and the courts may order
3 appropriate adjustments made in the formula to the extent
4 it is not based on costs.

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6 (c) The expenditure of school funds and the operation
7 of the public schools shall be under the control and
8 management of locally elected boards of trustees subject to
9 any requirements and exceptions the legislature provides by
10 law.

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12 **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State shall endorse
13 the following statements on the proposed amendment:

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1 The adoption of this amendment requires the legislature
2 provide a formula for funding the public schools and limits
3 the extent funding may vary on a per pupil basis unless the
4 variation is based on the cost of education. It provides
5 the courts may order adjustments to the formula in the case
6 of variations over the limit not justified by costs. It
7 preserves local control of education by providing that
8 locally elected school boards are responsible for the
9 expenditure of school funds and the operation of the public
10 schools subject to any requirements and exceptions provided
11 by law. The amendment also replaces the archaic requirement
12 that children attend school for three years by allowing the
13 legislature to specify the time as it has done.

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(END)