

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0001

Neighboring states school funding-constitutional amendment.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Driskill and Representative(s)
Clem, Hunt, Lindholm and Winters

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION proposing to amend the Wyoming
2 Constitution to index public school funding to the public
3 school funding of Wyoming's neighboring states and
4 providing a ballot statement.

5

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

9

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

1

2 **Article 7, Section 9. Taxation for schools; index**
3 **funding to that of neighboring states.**

4

5 (a) Subject to the limitations provided by subsection

6 (b) of this section, the legislature shall make such

7 further provision by taxation or otherwise, as with the

8 income arising from the general school fund will create and

9 maintain a thorough and efficient system of public schools,

10 adequate to the proper instruction of all youth of the

11 state, between the ages of six and twenty-one years, free

12 of charge; and in view of such provision so made, the

13 legislature shall require that every child of sufficient

14 physical and mental ability shall attend a public school

15 during the period between six and eighteen years for a time

16 equivalent to three years, unless educated by other means.

17

18 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this

19 constitution to the contrary, the legislature shall

20 establish by law a mechanism to determine the on-going five

21 year average of the annual per pupil public school funding

22 for the states of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South

23 Dakota and Utah. This calculation shall include funding,

1 from any source, for: school operations; major and minor
2 school maintenance; capital construction; and any other
3 public school funding deemed appropriate by the
4 legislature. Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and
5 continuing each school year thereafter, the legislature
6 shall ensure this state's system of public schools receives
7 not less than one hundred percent (100%) and not more than
8 one hundred ten percent (110%) of the on-going five year
9 average of the annual per pupil public school funding for
10 the states of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South
11 Dakota and Utah multiplied by the number of students in
12 this state. The legislature shall not reduce funding for
13 public education by more than seven percent (7%) in any one
14 year to meet the requirements of this subsection.

15

16 **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State shall endorse
17 the following statement on the proposed amendment:

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1 This amendment would require the legislature, beginning
2 with the 2019-2020 school year, to fund the state's public
3 schools at one hundred percent (100%) to one hundred ten
4 percent (110%) of the per pupil funding average of public
5 school systems in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South
6 Dakota and Utah multiplied by the number of Wyoming public
7 school students. The funding average would be a five year
8 funding average, determined on an on-going basis. Any
9 funding reductions would be limited to not more than seven
10 percent (7%) per year.

11

12

(END)