

House Office Building, 9 South Lansing, Michigan 48909 Phone: 517/373-6466 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: DISPLAY OF 10 COMMANDMENTS IN SCHOOLS, ON STATE PROPERTY

House Joint Resolution O Sponsor: Rep. Ken Bradstreet Committee: Constitutional Law and Ethics

Complete to 8-16-00

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION O AS INTRODUCED 2-8-00

The joint resolution would amend the state constitution (Article I, Section 4) to allow the display of the Judaeo-Christian 10 commandments in public schools and on state property. More specifically, the state constitution currently prohibits money to be appropriated or drawn from the state treasury "for the benefit of any religious sect or society, theological or religious seminary" and prohibits property belonging to the state from being "appropriated for any such purposes." The joint resolution would add to this section of the constitution the following language: "However, property belonging to the state may be used to display the ten commandments, and the right to display the ten commandments on property owned or administered by a public school or public body in this state is not restrained or abridged."

The constitutional amendment would be submitted to a vote of the people of the state in the next general election.

Analyst: S. Ekstrom

[■] This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.