

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION D

February 2, 1999, Introduced by Senator JAYE and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution of 1963, by amending section 2 of article VIII, to allow direct or indirect state financial aid to nonpublic schools.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Michigan, That the following amendment to the state constitution of 1963, to allow direct or indirect state financial aid to nonpublic schools, is proposed, agreed to, and submitted to the people of the state:

1

ARTICLE VIII

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Sec. 2. The legislature shall maintain and support a system

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of free public elementary and secondary schools as defined by

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law. Every school district shall provide for the education of

1 its pupils without discrimination as to religion, creed, race,
2 color or national origin.

3 ~~No public monies or property shall be appropriated or paid~~
4 ~~or any public credit utilized, by the legislature or any other~~
5 ~~political subdivision or agency of the state directly or indi-~~
6 ~~rectly to aid or maintain any private, denominational or other~~
7 ~~nonpublic, pre-elementary, elementary, or secondary school. No~~
8 ~~payment, credit, tax benefit, exemption or deductions, tuition~~
9 ~~voucher, subsidy, grant or loan of public monies or property~~
10 ~~shall be provided, directly or indirectly, to support the~~
11 ~~attendance of any student or the employment of any person at any~~
12 ~~such nonpublic school or at any location or institution where~~
13 ~~instruction is offered in whole or in part to such nonpublic~~
14 ~~school students. The legislature may provide for the transporta-~~
15 ~~tion of students to and from any school.~~

16 FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGINNING IN 2001 AND FOR ALL SUCCEEDING
17 SCHOOL YEARS, THE LEGISLATURE SHALL PROVIDE BY LAW FOR A VOUCHER
18 SYSTEM TO SUPPORT THE ATTENDANCE OF PUPILS IN NONPUBLIC ELEMEN-
19 TARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS OR SHALL PROVIDE BY LAW FOR A CREDIT
20 AGAINST STATE INCOME TAXES FOR TUITION PAID BY A PARENT OR LEGAL
21 GUARDIAN OF A PUPIL ATTENDING A NONPUBLIC ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY
22 SCHOOL, OR SHALL PROVIDE BY LAW FOR BOTH. THE AMOUNT PAID TO A
23 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL FOR EACH PUPIL ATTENDING THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL
24 UNDER A VOUCHER SYSTEM CREATED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL
25 BE AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE STATEWIDE AVERAGE AMOUNT PAID TO A
26 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL PUPIL.

1 Resolved further, That the foregoing amendment shall be
2 submitted to the people of the state at the next general election
3 in the manner provided by law.