

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas Constitution.**

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

SJR 3

By: Senator B. Johnson

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO BE KNOWN AS THE "PUBLIC EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AMENDMENT OF 2018"; AND PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 14, SECTION 1 OF THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO REQUIRE THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO MAINTAIN A GENERAL, SUITABLE, AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR THE PERSONS RESIDING WITHIN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND OTHER PERSONS DEEMED ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT.

**Subtitle**

THE PUBLIC EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP  
AMENDMENT OF 2018.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

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

SECTION 1. This amendment shall be known and may be cited as the "Public Education Partnership Amendment of 2018".



SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 14, § 1, is amended to read as follows:

§ 1. Free school system.

(a) Intelligence and virtue being the safeguards of liberty and the bulwark of a free and good government, the State and each public school district shall ever maintain a general, suitable and efficient system of free public schools for the persons residing within the public school district and other persons deemed eligible to attend the public school district and shall adopt all suitable means to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education.

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

(c) The following shall not be held to violate this section or other provisions of this Constitution, including without limitation Article 2 of this Constitution:

(1) The maintaining of a general, suitable, and efficient system of free public schools by the State and public school districts; and

(2) The actions of the General Assembly as part of the supervision of public schools under Article 14, § 4 of this Constitution.

SECTION 3. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election ballot:

(1) The title of this joint resolution shall be the ballot title; and

(2) The Popular Name shall be "A Proposed Constitutional Amendment, to be Known as the "Public Education Partnership Amendment of 2018", to Provide that the State and Public School Districts Share the Responsibility of Providing a Free System of Public Schools by Requiring the State and Public School Districts to Maintain a General, Suitable, and Efficient System of Free Public Schools for the Persons Residing Within Public School Districts and Other Persons Deemed Eligible to Attend Public

School Districts".