

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

SJR 5

By: Senator A. Clark

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION
PROVIDING THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL BE THE SOLE
AND EXCLUSIVE EVALUATOR OF WHETHER THE SYSTEM OF FREE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE
ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION.

Subtitle

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION
PROVIDING THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL
BE THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE EVALUATOR OF
WHETHER THE SYSTEM OF FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SATISFIES THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION.

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

§ 1. Free school system.



(a)(1) Intelligence and virtue being the safeguards of liberty and the bulwark of a free and good government, the State shall ever maintain a general, suitable and efficient system of free public schools and shall adopt all suitable means to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education.

(2) The specific intention of this amendment is to authorize that in addition to existing constitutional or statutory provisions the General Assembly and/or 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.

(b) The General Assembly shall be the sole and exclusive evaluator of whether the system of free public schools satisfies the requirements of this Constitution, including without limitation determining whether the system of free public schools complies with:

- (1) Subdivision (a)(1) of this section; and
- (2) Article 2 of this constitution.

SECTION 2. 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 Providing that the General Assembly Shall Be the Sole and Exclusive Evaluator of Whether the System of Free Public Schools Satisfies the Requirements of the Arkansas Constitution."