

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 21**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Senators Addiego, Bateman, Cardinale, Doherty, Pennacchio, T.Kean,
Singer and Connors**

SYNOPSIS

Proposes an amendment to the Constitution to describe the manner in which the Legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** proposing to amend Article VIII,
2 Section IV, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the State of New
3 Jersey.

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5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
6 *General Assembly concurring):*

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8 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of
9 the State of New Jersey is agreed to:

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11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

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13 Amend Article VIII, Section IV, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

14 1. The Legislature shall provide for the maintenance and
15 support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools for
16 the instruction of all the children in the State between the ages of
17 five and 18 years. Maintenance and support shall be provided
18 through the enactment, from time to time, of laws prescribing the
19 components of a thorough and efficient system of free public
20 schools. These laws shall also provide for the funding of a system
21 of free public schools in the manner and to the extent the
22 Legislature determines to be appropriate, including, but not limited
23 to, the amount of funds to be provided by the State and by the local
24 school districts, the purposes for which these funds are to be
25 expended, the formulas pursuant to which these funds are to be
26 allocated, and the manner and means by which these funds are to be
27 raised; but nothing herein contained shall be construed as requiring
28 any minimum or establishing any maximum amount of funds to be
29 provided by the State, or in any way restricting, limiting, or
30 otherwise affecting the right of the Legislature to regulate the
31 funding of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools in
32 the manner and to the extent the Legislature determines to be
33 appropriate.

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35 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally
36 agreed to, pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it
37 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election
38 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and
39 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each
40 county designated by the President of the Senate and the Speaker
41 of the General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than
42 three months prior to the general election.

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44 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 submitted to the people at the election in the following manner and
2 form:
3 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the
4 general election, the following:
5 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used,
6 a legend which shall immediately precede the question, as follows:
7 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (x), plus
8 (+) or check (T) in the square opposite the word "Yes."
9 If you are opposed thereto make a cross (x), plus (+) or check (T)
10 in the square opposite the word "No."
11 b. In every municipality the following question:
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		THOROUGH AND EFFICIENT EDUCATION LAWS
	YES	Shall the amendment of Article VIII, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, providing that the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools shall be provided through the enactment, from time to time, of laws prescribing the components of the system, and providing that nothing shall be construed as requiring any minimum or establishing any maximum amount of funds to be provided by the State, or as in any way restricting, limiting, or otherwise affecting the right of the Legislature to regulate the funding of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools in the manner and to the extent the Legislature determines to be appropriate, be approved?
		INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT
	NO	This constitutional amendment describes the manner in which the Legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools.

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STATEMENT

This proposed amendment would require the enactment of laws prescribing the components of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools. While these laws would also be required to provide for the funding of a system of free public schools, this

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1 proposed amendment specifies that nothing herein contained shall
2 be construed as requiring any minimum or establishing any
3 maximum amount of funds to be provided by the State, or as in any
4 way restricting, limiting, or otherwise affecting the right of the
5 Legislature to regulate the funding of a thorough and efficient
6 system of free public schools in the manner and to the extent the
7 Legislature determines to be appropriate.