

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 24**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL J. DOHERTY

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Singer and Holzapfel

SYNOPSIS

Proposes amendment to Constitution to provide that State aid to school districts will be allocated on equal per pupil basis.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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 1. The Legislature shall provide for the maintenance and
14 support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools for
15 the instruction of all the children in the State between the ages of
16 five and eighteen years. In providing for the maintenance and
17 support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools,
18 the Legislature shall enact laws prescribing that State funding
19 payable to school districts, other than funding for special education,
20 shall be on an equal per pupil basis. Nothing herein shall be
21 construed as requiring a minimum amount, or establishing a
22 maximum amount, of funding to be provided by the State, or
23 requiring that the State provide funding based on the amount of
24 funding provided in a prior year.

25 (cf: Art. VIII, Sec. I, par. 1)

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27 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally
28 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it
29 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election
30 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and
31 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each
32 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
33 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three
34 months prior to the general election.

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36 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be
37 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and
38 form:

39 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the
40 general election, the following:

41 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used,
42 a legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

43 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus
44 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are

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 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the
2 square opposite the word "No."
3 b. In every municipality the following question:
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	YES	<p>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE STATE SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON EQUAL PER PUPIL BASIS</p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to change the way that the State funds public schools?</p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to require that State funding to school districts, other than special education funding, be on an equal per pupil basis?</p>
	NO	<p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>This amendment to the Constitution changes how the State provides funding for public schools. The amendment would require that any State funding provided to school districts be provided on an equal per pupil basis. This requirement would not apply to special education funding. Currently, State aid per pupil varies significantly among school districts.</p> <p>The amendment specifies that the State would not be required to provide a minimum, nor does it establish a maximum, amount of funding to school districts.</p>

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STATEMENT

9 This Senate Concurrent Resolution proposes a constitutional
10 amendment to specify that State aid payable directly to school
11 districts, other than funding for special education, would be
12 provided on an equal per pupil basis. The amendment also specifies
13 that the State would not be required to provide a minimum, nor does
14 it establish a maximum, amount of funding to school districts.