

2004 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 200

Offered January 14, 2004

Prefiled January 14, 2004

Proposing an amendment to Section 2 of Article VIII of the Constitution of Virginia, relating to state and local support of public schools.

Patrons—Scott, J.M., Albo, Amundson, Hull and Plum; Senators: Howell and Ticer

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, a majority of the members elected to each house agreeing, That the following amendment to the Constitution of Virginia be, and the same hereby is, proposed and referred to the General Assembly at its first regular session held after the next general election of members of the House of Delegates for its concurrence in conformity with the provisions of Section 1 of Article XII of the Constitution of Virginia, namely:

Amend Section 2 of Article VIII of the Constitution of Virginia as follows:

ARTICLE VIII

EDUCATION

Section 2. Standards of quality; State and local support of public schools.

Standards of quality for the several school divisions shall be determined and prescribed from time to time by the Board of Education, subject to revision only by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly shall determine the manner in which funds are to be provided for the cost of maintaining an educational program meeting the prescribed standards of quality, and shall provide for the apportionment of the cost of such program between the Commonwealth and the local units of government comprising such school divisions. *In apportioning such costs, the General Assembly shall ensure (i) that the state portion is no less than fifty-five percent of the total statewide costs of providing such educational program, (ii) that disparity among the school divisions in local ability to fund such program is taken into account in the distribution of the state portion, and (iii) that the amount per pupil of the state portion distributed to each school division is equal to or greater than the amount per pupil distributed to the school division in 2004.*

Each unit of local government shall provide its portion of such cost by local taxes or from other available funds.

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