

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

**S.F. No. 3977**

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOWE and Pratt)

DATE  
03/04/2020

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Introduction and first reading  
Referred to E-12 Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, article XIII, section 1;  
1.3 providing for a fundamental right to quality public education for all children.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED.

1.6 An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution is proposed to the people. If the amendment  
1.7 is adopted, article XIII, section 1, will read:

1.8 Section 1. ~~The stability of a republican form of government depending mainly upon the~~  
1.9 ~~intelligence of the people, it is the duty of the legislature to establish a general and uniform~~  
1.10 ~~system of public schools. The legislature shall make such provisions by taxation or otherwise~~  
1.11 ~~as will secure a thorough and efficient system of public schools throughout the state. All~~  
1.12 children have a fundamental right to a quality public education that fully prepares them  
1.13 with the skills necessary for participation in the economy, our democracy, and society, as  
1.14 measured against uniform achievement standards set forth by the state. It is a paramount  
1.15 duty of the state to ensure quality public schools that fulfill this fundamental right.

1.16 Sec. 2. SUBMISSION TO VOTERS.

1.17 (a) The proposed amendment must be submitted to the people at the 2020 general election.  
1.18 The question submitted must be:

1.19 "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that all children have a  
1.20 fundamental right to a quality public education and establish that quality public schools are  
1.21 a paramount duty of the state?"

2.1 Yes .....

2.2 No ..... "

2.3 (b) The title required under Minnesota Statutes, section 204D.15, subdivision 1, for the  
2.4 question submitted to the people under paragraph (a) shall be: "Equal Right to Quality Public  
2.5 Education Amendment."