

2010 -- S 2394

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF  
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
(EDUCATION)

Introduced By: Senator C Levesque

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

1           WHEREAS, Education is a fundamental right of the people of the state. It is the  
2   corresponding duty of the state not only to promote public schools, but also to provide a free and  
3   appropriate public school education to all residents of the state. Therefore, it is appropriate to  
4   amend our state constitution in order to reflect the true nature of education and the state's duties  
5   and obligations to its citizens in regard to education.

6           RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general  
7   assembly voting therefore, the following amendment to the Constitution of the state be proposed  
8   to the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the  
9   Constitution for their approval and that this amendment take the place of Article XII, Section 1,  
10   of the Constitution, which is hereby amended, effective on January 1, 2011, to read as follows:

11           **Section 1.** Duty of general assembly to promote schools and libraries. -- The diffusion of  
12   knowledge, as well as of virtue among the people, being essential to the preservation of their  
13   rights and liberties, it shall be ~~the duty of the general assembly to promote public schools and~~  
14   and is the duty of the general assembly to provide a free and appropriate public school education  
15   to all residents of the state, and to promote public libraries, and to adopt all means which it may  
16   deem necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education  
17   and public library services

18           RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take, in the Constitution of the state, the place of  
19   Article XII, Section 1, of the Constitution; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors  
2 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election to be held in November,  
3 2010. The voting places in the several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours  
4 required by law for voting therein for members of the state general assembly; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State shall cause the said proposition of amendment  
6 to be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the  
7 said meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or  
8 notices to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town,  
9 ward, or district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district  
10 meetings to be held as aforesaid; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That the town, ward and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be  
12 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and  
13 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,  
14 ward, and district meetings for the next general election of members to the state general assembly  
15 and such other general offices of the state as may be up for election.

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