

FILED FEB 19 1998

EDUCATION

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2003

BY GRONSTAL, NEUHAUSER, and
VILSACK

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa relating to the right of children to free
3 public education through the secondary level.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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S. J. R. 2003

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 Article I of the Constitution of the State of Iowa is
4 amended by adding the following new section:

5 RIGHT TO FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION. Sec. 26. The state shall
6 provide a system of high-quality public schools and guarantee
7 equality of educational opportunity. Public school education
8 through the secondary level shall be free of charge for
9 tuition. Public schoolbooks, other materials, and fees for
10 courses of instruction required by law and essential to each
11 child's educational development shall be provided by the
12 state. The state shall determine the method of financing the
13 system of public school education. The system of public
14 school education shall be open to all children of the state
15 and free from sectarian control.

16 The state may provide other free public education as the
17 general assembly provides by law.

18 Sec. 2. The foregoing proposed amendment to the
19 Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred to the General
20 Assembly to be chosen at the next general election for members
21 of the General Assembly and the Secretary of State is directed
22 to cause the same to be published for three consecutive months
23 previous to the date of that election as provided by law.

24 EXPLANATION

25 This Joint Resolution proposes an amendment to the
26 Constitution of the State of Iowa establishing that the state
27 has a duty to provide high-quality public school education and
28 to guarantee educational opportunity, and that public school
29 education through the secondary level shall be free of charge
30 for tuition. Public schoolbooks, other materials, and fees
31 for courses of instruction required by law and essential to
32 each child's educational development shall be provided by the
33 state. The Resolution also provides that the state shall
34 determine the method of financing the system of public school
35 education, and that the system of public school education.

1 shall be open to all children of the state and free from
2 sectarian control. The Resolution additionally authorizes the
3 general assembly to provide by law for other free public
4 education.

5 The Resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next
6 general assembly for adoption before being submitted to the
7 electorate for ratification.

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