
DIGEST

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HB 524 Original

2015 Regular Session

Ourso

Abstract: Requires the legislature to provide by law for the creation of independent school districts for elementary and secondary education by a process of petition and subsequent vote of the residents of the district, provides for governance of a district by an elected board of trustees, and provides for MFP funding.

Present constitution provides with respect to a public educational system which must be established and maintained by the state. Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution and requires the state to also provide by law for independent school districts for elementary and secondary education.

Proposed constitutional amendment specifies that an independent school district shall operate independently, separate and apart from the state and the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education and shall be governed by an elected board of trustees. Proposed constitutional amendment further provides that the territorial jurisdiction of such district cannot cross parish lines.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that on or after Jan. 1, 2016, the creation of such a district becomes effective if and when a proposition, initiated by petition of a percentage of the residents, is approved by a majority of the proposed school district who vote on the proposition.

Present constitution provides for funding of education in all public elementary and secondary schools through the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) and imposes an ad valorem maintenance tax in each parish to fund the local portion of the MFP. Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution but provides that for purposes of funding an independent school district, the district shall be regarded as a parish or city school system and its schools shall be regarded as public schools, that the required local funds contribution is deemed to be satisfied from existing ad valorem taxes, and grants authority to such districts to levy additional ad valorem taxes for a specific purpose.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held October 24, 2015.

(Amends Const. Art. VIII, the preamble and §§1 and 4; Adds Const. Art. VIII, §§9.1 and 13(E))