

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 492

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREENE

SCHOOLS/FINANCE: (Constitutional Amendment) Grants any legislatively established public school system the same treatment and authority granted to parishes for purposes of minimum foundation program funding and local taxing authority

A JOINT RESOLUTION

To amend and reenact Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to provide that for certain effects and purposes, any public school system established by the legislature shall be regarded and treated as a parish school system, including purposes of funding and the raising of local revenues for the support of elementary and secondary schools; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§13. Funding; Apportionment

Section 13.

* * *

(D)(1) Municipal and Other School Systems. For the effects and purposes of this Section, the Central community school system and the Zachary community school system in East Baton Rouge Parish, ~~and~~ the municipalities of Baker in East Baton Rouge Parish, Monroe in Ouachita Parish, and Bogalusa in Washington Parish, and ~~no others~~, any other public school system established by the legislature

1 shall be regarded and treated as ~~parishes~~ parish school systems and shall have the
2 authority granted ~~parishes~~. parish school systems. Consistent with this Article ~~VII~~
3 ~~of this constitution~~, relevant to equal educational opportunities, no state dollars shall
4 be used to discriminate or to have the effect of discriminating in providing equal
5 educational opportunity for all students.

6 * * *

7 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted
8 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 4,
9 2014.

10 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,
11 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted
12 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
13 follows:

14 Do you support an amendment to provide that all legislatively established
15 public school systems are included in the minimum foundation program
16 funding formula for public elementary and secondary schools and have
17 constitutionally granted taxing authority? (Amends Article VIII, Section
18 13(D)(1))

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Greene

HB No. 492

Abstract: Provides that any legislatively established public school system is to be included in the MFP and has the constitutionally granted authority to levy ad valorem taxes.

Present constitution provides for the inclusion of school systems in the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula for the funding of public elementary and secondary education and for the allocation of MFP funds to such systems. Requires school systems to levy ad valorem taxes and establishes the maximum millage rate for such taxes. Specifically provides that the following community and municipal school systems – and no others – are treated like other school systems for purposes of the MFP and local taxing authority: the Central community school system, the Zachary community school system, and school systems in Baker, Monroe, and Bogalusa.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution but removes the prohibition against any school systems other than those specifically named in present constitution from being treated like other school systems. Instead grants any public school system established by the legislature the same treatment as other school systems for purposes of the MFP and local taxing authority.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 4, 2014.

(Amends Const. Art. VIII, §13(D)(1))