
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8203

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Senators Miloscia, O'Ban, Bailey, and Becker

Read first time 01/17/17. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to
6 Article IX by repealing section 1 in its entirety and an amendment to
7 Article XXVI, section 1 of the Constitution of the state of
8 Washington to read as follows:

9 Article XXVI, section 1. The following ordinance shall be
10 irrevocable without the consent of the United States and the people
11 of this state:

12 **First.** That perfect toleration of religious sentiment shall be
13 secured and that no inhabitant of this state shall ever be molested
14 in person or property on account of his or her mode of religious
15 worship.

16 **Second.** That the people inhabiting this state do agree and
17 declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the
18 unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries of this state,
19 and to all lands lying within said limits owned or held by any Indian
20 or Indian tribes; and that until the title thereto shall have been
21 extinguished by the United States, the same shall be and remain
22 subject to the disposition of the United States, and said Indian

1 lands shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the
2 congress of the United States and that the lands belonging to
3 citizens of the United States residing without the limits of this
4 state shall never be taxed at a higher rate than the lands belonging
5 to residents thereof; and that no taxes shall be imposed by the state
6 on lands or property therein, belonging to or which may be hereafter
7 purchased by the United States or reserved for use: *Provided*, That
8 nothing in this ordinance shall preclude the state from taxing as
9 other lands are taxed any lands owned or held by any Indian who has
10 severed his tribal relations, and has obtained from the United States
11 or from any person a title thereto by patent or other grant, save and
12 except such lands as have been or may be granted to any Indian or
13 Indians under any act of congress containing a provision exempting
14 the lands thus granted from taxation, which exemption shall continue
15 so long and to such an extent as such act of congress may prescribe.

16 **Third.** The debts and liabilities of the Territory of Washington
17 and payment of the same are hereby assumed by this state.

18 (~~**Fourth.** Provision shall be made for the establishment and
19 maintenance of systems of public schools free from sectarian control
20 which shall be open to all the children of said state.~~)

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single amendment
22 within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the state
23 Constitution.

24 The legislature finds that the changes contained in this
25 amendment constitute a single integrated plan to provide for a system
26 of publicly funded schools. If this amendment is held to be separate
27 amendments, this joint resolution is void in its entirety and is of
28 no further force and effect.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
30 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four
31 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every
32 legal newspaper in the state.

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