

**Constitution Revision Commission
Education Committee
Proposal Analysis**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the proposal as of the latest date listed below.)

Proposal #: P 89

Relating to: EDUCATION, Public education

Introducer(s): Commissioner Washington

Article/Section affected: Article IX, section 1

Date: January 18, 2018

	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	ED	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____

I. SUMMARY:

The proposal amends Section 1, Article IX of the Florida Constitution to outline the purpose of the public education system of Florida. The proposal adds language to declare that the purpose of the public education system is to develop citizens' intellect, economic gains, creation of a workforce comprised of graduates who have been prepared by their education for a job. The proposal also adds a new subparagraph (d) expressing it is the intent of the people to provide "high quality and affordable postsecondary education opportunities" with those purposes.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

The 1998 Constitution Revision Commission presented amendment 6 on the ballot which modified Section 1, Article IX of the Florida Constitution. The amendment declared it "a paramount duty of the state" to provide for education of children and passed with 71% of the vote¹.

The present constitution identifies objectives and principles for the operation of the statewide system of education² however, it does not identify the overarching objective of

¹ See Florida Department of State website for more information:
<http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/initdetail.asp?account=11&seqnum=2> (last visited 1/17/18).

² Section 1, Article IX Florida Constitution

the statewide system of education. Florida's statutes, however, frequently identify the objectives of the various levels of education in terms of economic development and career preparedness³.

The quality and costs associated with postsecondary education is not explicitly addressed in the constitution. although provision for a "uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools" is included⁴. Currently the affordability and quality of public postsecondary education in Florida is outlined in legislation⁵. For the State University System, this language would be read to supplement Section 7, Article IX, of the Florida Constitution which establishes a system of constitutional governance for the State University System.

Additionally, 2016 legislation⁶ has outlined a system of performance based funding for the Florida College System. The law awards a performance-based incentive to Florida College System institutions using performance-based measures adopted by the State Board of Education⁷. The law requires the model include four measures: (1) Retention Rates, (2) Completion Rates, (3) Job Placement/Continuing Education rates, and (4) Entry-Level Wages.

For the 2017-2018 academic year, all 28 colleges in the Florida College System performed well enough to have institutional funds restored with 22 of 28 colleges receiving awards of additional state funds. Specifically, the Completer Entry-Level Wage measure indicates all colleges are exceeding the threshold wage benchmark by an average of 109 percent.

State universities already provide high quality and affordable postsecondary education opportunities. In the 2017-2018 year, Florida is ranked 49th in the nation for undergraduate tuition and fees charged to resident students⁸. At the same time, the quality of a student's educational experience has been enhanced through strides made by the universities in response to greater accountability measures established and monitored by the Board of Governors which include, but are not limited to, the Annual Accountability Report⁹, annual university work plans, the implementation of performance funding, and tracking the System's progress on the goals set forth in the Board's 2025 Strategic Plan¹⁰.

³ Sections 1000.031, 1004.15, 1008.31, Florida Statutes and Part IV, Chapter 1004, Florida Statutes.

⁴ Section 1, Article IX Florida Constitution

⁵ Section 1004.84, 1004.85, Florida Statutes

⁶ HB 7029 (2016), enacted as Ch. 2016-237, L.O.F.

⁷ Rule 6A-14.07621, F.A.C.

⁸ See Florida Board of Governors website for more information: <https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/2017-18-state-tuition-and-fees-public-four-year-institutions-state-and-five-year-percentage> (last visited 1/18/2018)

⁹ See Florida Board of Governors website for more information: http://www.flbog.edu/board/accountability/2015-16_accountability.php (last visited 1/18/2018)

¹⁰ See Florida Board of Governors website for more information: <http://www.flbog.edu/pressroom/strategicplan.php> (last visited 1/18/2018)

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The proposal provides a purpose for the public education system of Florida, which is “to develop the intellect of the state’s citizens, to contribute to the economy, to create an effective workforce, and to prepare students for a job.”

The existing statutes addressing the subjects addressed by this proposal do not appear to conflict with the proposal and largely implement its objectives. No additional legislation would be required to implement the requirements although the language could be cited in support of any number of initiatives. The impact on the education system is, therefore, indeterminate.

C. FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

III. Additional Information:**A. Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the current version and the prior version of the proposal.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

C. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

D. Related Issues:

None.