



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 271

EFFECTIVE June 16, 2024

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Rhode Island has passed S 2147, legislation sponsored by Senator Roger A. Picard to place a question on the next statewide ballot asking voters to amend the state constitution to guarantee “an equitable, adequate and meaningful education to each child”; and

WHEREAS, This proposed amendment seeks to enshrine the right to a quality education in the state constitution, ensuring that every child in Rhode Island has access to the educational resources and opportunities necessary for their personal and academic development; and

WHEREAS, An equitable, adequate, and meaningful education is essential for the future success of our children and for the prosperity and well-being of our communities and state; and

WHEREAS, Guaranteeing this right in the state constitution will provide a strong legal foundation to address educational disparities and promote fairness and excellence in education across all communities in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, The legislation has successfully passed the State Senate, demonstrating significant support for this important initiative among state legislators; and

WHEREAS, The City Council recognizes the critical importance of this legislation and believes it is essential for the House of Representatives to also pass this measure to ensure it is placed on the ballot for the voters of Rhode Island to decide.

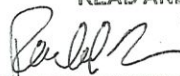

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1. Support for the Legislation: The Providence City Council strongly supports the legislation passed by the State Senate, sponsored by Senator Roger A. Picard, to place a question on the next statewide ballot asking voters to amend the state constitution to guarantee an equitable, adequate, and meaningful education to each child.
2. Encouragement for House Passage: The Providence City Council urges the House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island to pass this legislation promptly, allowing the voters of Rhode Island the opportunity to vote on this critical constitutional amendment.
3. Promotion of Educational Equity: The Providence City Council reaffirms its commitment to promoting educational equity and excellence and believes that this constitutional amendment is a vital step toward achieving these goals for all children in Rhode Island.
4. Communication of Support: The Providence City Council directs the Clerk of the Council to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Speaker of the House, members of the House of Representatives, and other relevant state officials to express our support for this important legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Office of the Honorable Mayor Bret Smiley, the Office of the Speaker of the House K. Joseph Shekarchi, the Office of the Senate President Dominick Ruggerio, and to every member of Providence State Delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUN 06 2024

READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature


Tina L. Mastroianni
City Clerk

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION

Referred To: Senate Education

OF EDUCATION

17 Section 2. ~~Perpetual school fund.~~ The money which now is or which may hereafter be
18 ~~appropriated by law for the establishment of a permanent fund for the support of public schools,~~
19 ~~shall be securely invested and remain a perpetual fund for that purpose.~~ **Judicial enforcement. —**

1 This article shall be judicially enforceable. Any person or entity injured or threatened with any
2 injury because of any noncompliance with its provisions shall be entitled to bring an action in
3 Superior Court to enforce these provisions and to obtain declaratory and injunctive relief for any
4 violation thereof.

5 RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take the place of
6 Section 1 and Section 2, Article XII, of the Constitution, effective January 1, 2025; and
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors
9 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the
10 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for
11 general officers of the state; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State shall cause the said proposition of amendment
13 to be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the
14 said meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or
15 notices to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town,
16 ward, or district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, city, ward, or district
17 meetings to be held as aforesaid; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the town, city, ward, and district meetings to be held as aforesaid shall
19 be warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and
20 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,
21 city, ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION

- 1 This amendment to the Constitution of the State, if approved, would provide that it would
2 be the paramount duty of the general assembly, the department of education, and other
3 government agencies to provide Rhode Island residents with equal opportunities to receive an
4 education that is adequate, equitable and meaningful effective January 1, 2025.

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