

1 has been approved by a majority of the electors of the proposed school district who
2 vote on the proposition, all as provided by law.

3 * * *

4 §13. Funding; Apportionment

5 Section 13.(A)

6 * * *

7 (E)(1) Independent School Districts. For the effects and purposes of this
8 Section, an independent school district shall be regarded and treated as a parish or
9 city school system and shall have the authority granted such school systems, and its
10 schools shall be regarded and treated as public elementary and secondary schools.

11 (2)(a) The local funds contribution in and for an independent school district
12 for the support of elementary and secondary education shall be and is satisfied from
13 ad valorem maintenance taxes and any additional ad valorem taxes being collected
14 pursuant to Subsection C of this Section.

15 (b) For giving additional support to an independent school district through
16 the levy of an ad valorem tax for a specific purpose, as authorized in Paragraph (C)
17 of this Section, such shall be authorized by a majority of the electors voting in the
18 jurisdictional territory of the district in an election held for that purpose and shall be
19 otherwise subject to limitations on the amount, duration, and purpose of the tax as
20 imposed by the legislature.

21 (3) Consistent with the provisions of this Article, relevant to equal
22 educational opportunities, no state dollars shall be used to discriminate or to have the
23 effect of discriminating in providing equal educational opportunity for all students.

24 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted
25 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on October 24,
26 2015.

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

5 Do you support an amendment to authorize the creation of independent
6 school districts for elementary and secondary education by petition and vote
7 of the residents of the proposed district, the management and control of
8 which is separate from the state except for its financing through the
9 Minimum Foundation Program otherwise allocated exclusively to public
10 schools? (Amends Article VIII, the preamble and Sections 1 and 4; Adds
11 Article VIII, Sections 9.1 and 13(E))

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)]

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))