

South Carolina General Assembly
125th Session, 2023-2024

Bill 3591

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

(Text matches printed bills. Document has been reformatted to meet World Wide Web specifications.)

Committee Report

February 16, 2023

H. 3591

Introduced by Reps. G. M. Smith, Taylor, B. Newton, West, Pace, Haddon, Yow, W. Newton, Felder and Thayer

S. Printed 02/16/23--H.

Read the first time January 10, 2023

The committee on House Judiciary

To who was referred a Joint Resolution (H. 3591) proposing an amendment to repeal Section 4, Article XI of the Constitution of South Carolina, 1895, relating to the prohibition against the State or its political, etc., respectfully

Report:

That they have duly and carefully considered the same, and recommend that the same do pass:

WM. WESTON J. NEWTON for Committee.

statement of estimated fiscal impact

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

State Expenditure

This joint resolution proposes to repeal Section 4, Article XI of the State Constitution, which currently states that no money shall be paid from public funds nor shall the credit of the State or any of its political subdivisions be used for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution. This proposal must be placed on the ballots of the next general election, which will occur in November 2024.

The State Election Commission will ensure that the proposed amendment appears on the ballots at the next general election and produce handouts and posters related to this proposal. The agency anticipates the cost associated with the additional responsibilities from this joint resolution will be minimal and can be managed with existing staff and within existing appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact for the State Election Commission.

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director

Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

A JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO REPEAL SECTION 4, ARTICLE XI OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE STATE OR ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS PROVIDING DIRECT AID TO RELIGIOUS OR OTHER PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. It is proposed that Section 4, Article XI of the Constitution of this State be repealed, which section presently reads:

No money shall be paid from public funds nor shall the credit of the State or any of its political subdivisions be used for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution.

SECTION 2. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the qualified electors at the next general election for representatives. Ballots must be provided at the various voting precincts with the following words printed or written on the ballot:

"Must Section 4, Article XI of the Constitution of this State be repealed so as to eliminate the prohibition against the State or its political subdivisions providing direct aid to religious or other private educational institutions?"

Yes ☐

No ☐

Those voting in favor of the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word 'Yes', and those voting against the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word 'No'."

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