

By: Escobar

H.J.R. No. 10

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment establishing a minimum
2 standard of equity for the public school finance system and
3 restricting the purposes for which money necessary to meet that
4 standard may be appropriated.

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 1, Article VII, Texas Constitution, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 1. (a) A general diffusion of knowledge being
9 essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the
10 people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to
11 establish and make suitable provision for the support and
12 maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools. In
13 complying with this section, the Legislature shall ensure that in
14 any State fiscal year, at least 98 percent of the public school
15 students in this State attend schools in school districts that have
16 equal access to the same level of funding per student.

17 (b) Before each regular session of the Legislature, the
18 comptroller of public accounts shall estimate the amount of State
19 funding required, under current State laws relating to school
20 funding, to comply with Subsection (a) of this section and shall
21 certify that amount to the governor, lieutenant governor, and
22 speaker of the house of representatives. In the State fiscal
23 biennium following the regular legislative session for which the
24 certification is made, the comptroller of public accounts shall

1 transfer to a special account in the state treasury on the first day
2 of each month an amount equal to 1/12 of the amount certified under
3 this subsection. Amounts transferred to the special fund may be
4 appropriated only for purposes of funding public schools, except
5 that in the case of a fiscal emergency, the Legislature, by a vote
6 of 4/5 of the membership of each house, may appropriate not more
7 than 10 percent of the money to be transferred to the special fund
8 for a purpose other than funding public schools.

9 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
10 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 2, 2004.
11 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
12 proposition: "The constitutional amendment establishing a minimum
13 standard of equity for the public school finance system and
14 restricting the purposes for which money necessary to meet that
15 standard may be appropriated."