

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2025-2026**

**S. J. R. No. 4**

**Senator Brenner**

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**A JOINT RESOLUTION**

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article VIII of the 1  
Constitution of the State of Ohio to conditionally 2  
authorize the issuance of state obligations to refund 3  
pending school district obligations, to conditionally 4  
waive, beginning in 2027, the requirement that schools 5  
levy property taxes to pay debt charges on their 6  
obligations, and to conditionally authorize a treasury 7  
fund that is restricted exclusively to educational 8  
purposes. 9

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of 10  
Ohio, three-fifths of the members elected to each house 11  
concurring herein, that there shall be submitted to the electors 12  
of the state, in the manner prescribed by law at the general 13  
election to be held on November 3, 2026, a proposal to enact 14  
Section 12 of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of 15  
Ohio to read as follows: 16

**ARTICLE VIII** 17

Section 12. (A) (1) Notwithstanding Section 3 of this 18  
article, the General Assembly may provide by law, subject to the 19  
limitations of and in accordance with this section, for the 20

issuance of bonds and other obligations of the state to refund 21  
obligations issued on or before November 3, 2026, of school 22  
districts, county school financing districts, career-technical 23  
cooperative education districts, regional student education 24  
districts, and partnerships consisting of multiple school 25  
districts, notwithstanding the applicability to those 26  
obligations of Section 11 of Article XII of the Constitution of 27  
the State of Ohio. This section shall be implemented in the 28  
manner and to the extent provided by the General Assembly by 29  
law, including provision for procedures for incurring, 30  
refunding, retiring, and evidencing state obligations issued 31  
pursuant to this section. Obligations issued under this section, 32  
including obligations issued to refund or retire other 33  
obligations issued under this section, shall mature not later 34  
than the thirty-first day of December of the twentieth calendar 35  
year after the year in which the original obligation to pay was 36  
issued or entered into. The total principal amount of 37  
obligations issued under this section shall be as determined by 38  
the General Assembly and shall not be subject to the limitation 39  
provided for in Section 17 of this article. 40

(2) Obligations issued under this section are general 41  
obligations of the state. The full faith and credit, revenue, 42  
and taxing power of the state shall be pledged to the payment of 43  
the principal of and premium and interest and other accreted 44  
amounts on outstanding obligations as they become due 45  
(hereinafter called debt service). For the purpose of the full 46  
and timely payment of that debt service, appropriate provisions 47  
shall be made or authorized by law for bond retirement funds and 48  
for the sufficiency and appropriation of excises, taxes, and 49  
revenues so pledged to that debt service, for which purpose no 50  
further act of appropriation shall be necessary notwithstanding 51

Section 22 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of 52  
Ohio, and provision shall be made or authorized by law for 53  
covenants to continue the levy, collection, and application of 54  
sufficient excises, taxes, and revenues to the extent needed for 55  
that purpose. The obligations and the provisions for the payment 56  
of debt service on them are not subject to Section 11 of Article 57  
XII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. 58

(3) Obligations issued under this section, their transfer, 59  
and the interest, interest equivalent, and other income or 60  
accrued amounts on them, including any profit made on their 61  
sale, exchange, or other disposition, shall at all times be free 62  
from taxation within this state. 63

(4) The powers herein granted shall be in addition to and 64  
not in derogation of existing powers of the state. 65

(B) Notwithstanding Section 11 of Article XII of the 66  
Constitution of the State of Ohio, a school district, county 67  
school financing district, career-technical cooperative 68  
education district, regional student education district, or 69  
partnership consisting of multiple school districts is not 70  
required to levy property tax on or after January 1, 2027, to 71  
pay the interest on obligations issued by the district or 72  
partnership. 73

(C) The proceeds of any tax on property levied by the 74  
state for the purpose of funding the primary and secondary 75  
education of students in this state shall be paid into a fund of 76  
the state treasury that shall be used solely to fund the primary 77  
and secondary education of students in this state and to which 78  
other revenue may be credited. 79

(D) The General Assembly shall not issue obligations under 80  
the authority of this section, nor shall division (B) or (C) of 81

this section apply, unless electors approve the levy of a 82  
property tax by the state for the purpose of funding the primary 83  
and secondary education of students in this state at the general 84  
election to be held on November 3, 2026. 85

EFFECTIVE DATE 86

If adopted by a majority of the electors voting on this 87  
proposal, the enactment of Section 12 of Article VIII of the 88  
Constitution of the State of Ohio shall take immediate effect. 89