

House Resolution 131

By: Representatives Smith of the 19<sup>th</sup>, Byrd of the 170<sup>th</sup>, Irvin of the 45<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 169<sup>th</sup>,  
Cash of the 108<sup>th</sup> and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to allow public money to be used by  
2 religious organizations and denominations and houses of worship for the purpose of  
3 providing nonsectarian social services to poor and needy people; to provide for the  
4 submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

### 6 SECTION 1.

7 Article I, Section II, Paragraph VII of the Constitution is amended by striking Paragraph VII  
8 and inserting in its place a new Paragraph to read as follows:

9 "Paragraph VII. Separation of church and state. No money shall ever be taken from the  
10 public treasury, directly or indirectly, in aid of any church, sect, cult, or religious  
11 denomination or of any sectarian institution. However, the use of money from the public  
12 treasury for social service programs for poor and needy people, when those programs  
13 involve the participation of religious organizations, religious denominations, and individual  
14 houses of worship which receive such funds for the purpose of carrying out those programs  
15 in nonsectarian ways, shall not be prohibited by this Paragraph or any other provision of  
16 this Constitution."

### 17 SECTION 2.

18 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as  
19 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution.

20 The ballot submitting the above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon  
21 the following:

22 "( ) YES Shall the Constitution be amended so as to allow public money to be used  
23 by religious organizations and denominations, and houses of worship for the  
24 ( ) NO purpose of providing nonsectarian social services to poor and needy  
people?"

25 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."

26 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No."

- 1 If such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
- 2 become a part of the Constitution of this state.