

House Resolution 1535

By: Representatives Smyre of the 111th and Skipper of the 116th

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to allow religious or sectarian institutions
 2 to receive public aid, directly or indirectly, for the provision of social services; to provide for
 3 related matters; to provide for submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and
 4 for other purposes.

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

8 "Paragraph VII. *Separation of church and state.* No money shall ever be taken from the
 9 public treasury, directly or indirectly, in aid of any church, sect, cult, or religious
 10 denomination or of any sectarian institution. However, nothing in this Paragraph shall
 11 prohibit the state from appropriating funds to social service programs provided by
 12 separately incorporated charitable affiliates of the above listed types of organizations
 13 provided that the funds do not go, directly or indirectly, to an affiliate that (1) engages in
 14 religious worship, proselytizing, or instruction or provides services with specifically
 15 religious content; or (2) discriminates on the basis of religious affiliation, belief, or exercise
 16 in the delivery or purchase of services or in its employment practices. Further, no public
 17 moneys from the public treasury, or other public credits, shall be legislated or appropriated
 18 either directly or indirectly to such affiliates for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 or
 19 postsecondary education programs, activities, or services.

20 SECTION 2.

21 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as
 22 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the
 23 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

24 "() YES Shall the Constitution be amended so as to allow religious or sectarian
 25 institutions to receive public aid, directly or indirectly, for the provision of
 26 () NO social services?"

- 1 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."
- 2 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
- 3 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
- 4 become a part of the Constitution of this state.