

By: Bonnen

H.J.R. No. 3

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment renaming the national
2 research university fund as the Texas University Fund, providing
3 for the appropriation of certain investment income from the
4 economic stabilization fund to the Texas University Fund, excepting
5 appropriations to and from the Texas University Fund from the
6 constitutional limit on the rate of growth of appropriations, and
7 appropriating money from the general revenue fund to the Texas
8 University Fund to be spent for purposes of providing funding to
9 certain public institutions of higher education to achieve national
10 prominence as major research universities and drive the state
11 economy.

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

13 SECTION 1. Section 49-g, Article III, Texas Constitution,
14 is amended by adding Subsection (p) to read as follows:

15 (p) On the first day of each state fiscal year, an amount, if
16 the amount is greater than zero, equal to the lesser of \$100 million
17 or the interest and other earnings attributable to the investment
18 of money in the economic stabilization fund for the preceding state
19 fiscal year is appropriated from the economic stabilization fund to
20 the comptroller of public accounts for the purpose of deposit to the
21 credit of the Texas University Fund not later than the 90th day of
22 the state fiscal year in which the appropriation is made. For
23 purposes of this subsection, the amount of interest and other
24 earnings attributable to the investment of money in the economic

1 stabilization fund for a state fiscal year is computed by:

2 (1) determining the amount of interest due to the fund
3 for that fiscal year, including any interest credited to general
4 revenue under Subsection (i) of this section;

5 (2) adding to the amount determined under Subdivision
6 (1) of this subsection an amount equal to the change in the fair
7 market value of the fund between the last day of that fiscal year
8 and the last day of the preceding state fiscal year; and

9 (3) subtracting from the amount determined under
10 Subdivision (2) of this subsection the amount of any expenses of
11 managing the investments of money in the fund that are paid from the
12 fund during that fiscal year.

13 SECTION 2. Section 20, Article VII, Texas Constitution, is
14 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (i) and
15 (j) to read as follows:

16 (a) There is established the Texas University Fund
17 [~~national research university fund~~] for the purpose of providing a
18 dedicated, independent, and equitable source of funding to enable
19 emerging research universities in this state to achieve national
20 prominence as major research universities.

21 (i) For purposes of Section 22, Article VIII, of this
22 constitution:

23 (1) money in the fund is dedicated by this
24 constitution; and

25 (2) an appropriation of money to the fund is an
26 appropriation of state tax revenues dedicated by this constitution.

27 (j) On January 1, 2024, the amount of \$3.5 billion is

1 appropriated from the general revenue fund to the comptroller of
2 public accounts for the purpose of immediately depositing that
3 amount to the credit of the Texas University Fund. The amount of
4 \$3.5 billion is appropriated from the Texas University Fund to the
5 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the state fiscal
6 biennium beginning September 1, 2023, for distribution to eligible
7 institutions as provided by general law. This subsection expires
8 January 1, 2026.

9 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
10 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 7, 2023.
11 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
12 proposition: "The constitutional amendment renaming the national
13 research university fund as the Texas University Fund, providing
14 for the appropriation of certain investment income from the
15 economic stabilization fund to the Texas University Fund, excepting
16 appropriations to and from the Texas University Fund from the
17 constitutional limit on the rate of growth of appropriations, and
18 appropriating \$3.5 billion from the general revenue fund to the
19 Texas University Fund to be spent for purposes of providing funding
20 to certain public institutions of higher education to achieve
21 national prominence as major research universities and drive the
22 state economy."