

By: King of Hemphill

H.J.R. No. 170

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment creating the state school  
2 safety fund to provide financial support for projects that enhance  
3 the safety of public schools in this state.

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

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

7 Sec. 7. (a) The state school safety fund is created as a  
8 special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue  
9 fund. Money in the state school safety fund shall be administered,  
10 without further appropriation, by the Texas Permanent School Fund  
11 Corporation or that corporation's successor in function. In  
12 accordance with general law, the state school safety fund may be  
13 used only to support projects to enhance the safety of public  
14 schools in this state, including projects to ensure public schools  
15 meet school safety standards established by the Texas Education  
16 Agency or that agency's successor in function. Separate accounts  
17 may be established in the state school safety fund as necessary or  
18 convenient to administer the fund or the supported projects.

19 (b) The legislature by general law may authorize the Texas  
20 Permanent School Fund Corporation or that corporation's successor  
21 in function to provide money from the state school safety fund to  
22 the Texas Education Agency or that agency's successor in function  
23 for purposes of providing financial assistance, including by direct  
24 grant to an independent school district or open-enrollment charter

1 school, for projects described under Subsection (a) of this  
2 section.

3 (c) The state school safety fund consists of:

4 (1) money appropriated to the fund;

5 (2) money transferred or deposited to the credit of  
6 the fund by general law, including money from any source  
7 transferred or deposited to the credit of the fund at the discretion  
8 of the Texas Permanent School Fund Corporation or the Texas  
9 Education Agency or that corporation's or agency's successor in  
10 function as authorized by general law;

11 (3) revenue from any source that the legislature by  
12 statute dedicates for deposit to the credit of the fund;

13 (4) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts  
14 credited to the fund;

15 (5) money appropriated by the legislature for the  
16 purposes of funding public schools that is determined by the  
17 commissioner of education to exceed the amount required for the  
18 support and maintenance of public schools, including amounts to  
19 which the public schools of this state are entitled under general  
20 law; and

21 (6) money transferred to the fund from another fund or  
22 account to which money from the fund was transferred, as authorized  
23 by general law.

24 (d) The legislature by general law shall provide for the  
25 manner in which money in the state school safety fund may be used,  
26 subject to the limitations provided by this section. The  
27 legislature by general law may provide for costs of investment and

1 administration of the state school safety fund to be paid from the  
2 fund.

3 (e) For the purposes of Section 22, Article VIII, of this  
4 constitution, an appropriation of money from the economic  
5 stabilization fund for the purpose of depositing that money to the  
6 credit of the state school safety fund is considered to be an  
7 appropriation of state tax revenues dedicated by this constitution.

8 (f) This section is intended to establish a basic framework  
9 of the state school safety fund, and the legislature by general law  
10 may provide for the implementation and effectuate the design and  
11 objects of this section and may delegate duties, responsibilities,  
12 functions, and authority to the Texas Permanent School Fund  
13 Corporation or the Texas Education Agency or that corporation's or  
14 agency's successor in function for those purposes.

15 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be  
16 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 7, 2023.  
17 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the  
18 proposition: "The constitutional amendment creating the state  
19 school safety fund to provide financial support for projects that  
20 enhance the safety of public schools in this state."