

By: Lindsay

S.J.R. No. 27

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment dedicating certain revenue
2 derived from motor fuel taxes for funding group health benefits for
3 employees of school districts and for the Texas Department of
4 Transportation.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 7-a, Article VIII, Texas Constitution,
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 7-a. (a) Except as provided by Subsections (b) and (c)
9 of this section and subject [~~Subject~~] to legislative appropriation,
10 allocation and direction, all net revenues remaining after payment
11 of all refunds allowed by law and expenses of collection derived
12 from motor vehicle registration fees, and all taxes, except gross
13 production and ad valorem taxes, on motor fuels and lubricants used
14 to propel motor vehicles over public roadways, shall be used for the
15 sole purpose of acquiring rights-of-way, constructing,
16 maintaining, and policing such public roadways, and for the
17 administration of such laws as may be prescribed by the Legislature
18 pertaining to the supervision of traffic and safety on such roads;
19 and for the payment of the principal and interest on county and road
20 district bonds or warrants voted or issued prior to January 2, 1939,
21 and declared eligible prior to January 2, 1945, for payment out of
22 the County and Road District Highway Fund under existing law;
23 provided, however, that one-fourth (1/4) of such net revenue from
24 the motor fuel tax shall be allocated to the Available School Fund;

1 and, provided, however, that the net revenue derived by counties
2 from motor vehicle registration fees shall never be less than the
3 maximum amounts allowed to be retained by each County and the
4 percentage allowed to be retained by each County under the laws in
5 effect on January 1, 1945. Nothing contained herein shall be
6 construed as authorizing the pledging of the State's credit for any
7 purpose.

8 (b) The net revenue derived from the first four cents of an
9 increase in the rate of the gasoline or diesel fuel taxes otherwise
10 dedicated by this section over the rate of the taxes on January 1,
11 2003, shall be allocated as follows:

12 (1) one-fourth of the net revenue from the increase
13 shall be used only for the purpose of funding group health benefits
14 for employees of school districts; and

15 (2) the remainder of the net revenue from the increase
16 shall be used only for the purpose of funding the Texas Department
17 of Transportation, or its successor in function, programs
18 administered by the department, and the department's debt service.

19 (c) Not more than one-third of the net revenue dedicated
20 under Subsection (b) of this section may be used to pay the debt
21 service of the Texas Department of Transportation or of its
22 successor in function.

23 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
24 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2003.
25 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
26 proposition: "The constitutional amendment dedicating certain
27 revenue derived from motor fuel taxes for funding group health

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1 benefits for employees of school districts and for the Texas
2 Department of Transportation."