

By: Lindsay

S.J.R. No. 30

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment relating to the provision of parks and recreational facilities by certain conservation and reclamation districts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(a) The conservation and development of all of the natural resources of this State, and development of parks and recreational facilities, including the control, storing, preservation and distribution of its storm and flood waters, the waters of its rivers and streams, for irrigation, power and all other useful purposes, the reclamation and irrigation of its arid, semi-arid and other lands needing irrigation, the reclamation and drainage of its overflowed lands, and other lands needing drainage, the conservation and development of its forests, water and hydro-electric power, the navigation of its inland and coastal waters, and the preservation and conservation of all such natural resources of the State are each and all hereby declared public rights and duties; and the Legislature shall pass all such laws as may be appropriate thereto.

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (c-1), the ~~[The]~~ Legislature shall authorize all such indebtedness as may be

1 necessary to provide all improvements and the maintenance thereof
2 requisite to the achievement of the purposes of this amendment. All
3 such indebtedness may be evidenced by bonds of such conservation
4 and reclamation districts, to be issued under such regulations as
5 may be prescribed by law. The Legislature shall also authorize the
6 levy and collection within such districts of all such taxes,
7 equitably distributed, as may be necessary for the payment of the
8 interest and the creation of a sinking fund for the payment of such
9 bonds and for the maintenance of such districts and improvements.
10 Such indebtedness shall be a lien upon the property assessed for the
11 payment thereof. The Legislature shall not authorize the issuance
12 of any bonds or provide for any indebtedness against any
13 reclamation district unless such proposition shall first be
14 submitted to the qualified voters of such district and the
15 proposition adopted.

16 (c-1) For development of parks and recreational facilities
17 the Legislature may authorize indebtedness as may be necessary to
18 provide for improvements and maintenance only for a conservation
19 and reclamation district all or part of which is located in Travis
20 County, Harris County, Galveston County, Brazoria County, Fort Bend
21 County, or Montgomery County. All the indebtedness may be
22 evidenced by bonds of the conservation and reclamation district, to
23 be issued under regulations as may be prescribed by law. The
24 Legislature may also authorize the levy and collection within the
25 district of all taxes, equitably distributed, as may be necessary
26 for the payment of the interest and the creation of a sinking fund
27 for the payment of the bonds and for maintenance of and improvements

1 to the parks and recreational facilities. The indebtedness shall
2 be a lien on the property assessed for the payment of the bonds. The
3 Legislature may not authorize the issuance of bonds or provide for
4 indebtedness under this subsection against a reclamation district
5 unless a proposition is first submitted to the qualified voters of
6 the district and the proposition is adopted.

7 SECTION 2. The legislature intends by the amendment
8 proposed by Section 1 of this resolution to expand the authority of
9 conservation and reclamation districts with respect to parks and
10 recreational facilities. The proposed amendment should not be
11 construed as a limitation on the powers of a district as those
12 powers exist immediately before the amendment takes effect.

13 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
14 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2003.
15 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
16 proposition: "The constitutional amendment relating to the
17 provision of parks and recreational facilities by certain
18 conservation and reclamation districts."