

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 Subsection (a) 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-1) In addition and only as provided by this subsection, the Legislature may authorize conservation and reclamation districts to develop and finance with taxes those types and

1 categories of parks and recreational facilities that were not
2 authorized by this section to be developed and financed with taxes
3 before September 13, 2003. For development of such parks and
4 recreational facilities, the Legislature may authorize
5 indebtedness payable from taxes as may be necessary to provide for
6 improvements and maintenance only for a conservation and
7 reclamation district all or part of which is located in Bexar
8 County, Bastrop County, Waller County, Travis County, Williamson
9 County, Harris County, Galveston County, Brazoria County, Fort Bend
10 County, or Montgomery County, or for the Tarrant Regional Water
11 District, a water control and improvement district located in whole
12 or in part in Tarrant County. All the indebtedness may be evidenced
13 by bonds of the conservation and reclamation district, to be issued
14 under regulations as may be prescribed by law. The Legislature may
15 also authorize the levy and collection within such district of all
16 taxes, equitably distributed, as may be necessary for the payment
17 of the interest and the creation of a sinking fund for the payment
18 of the bonds and for maintenance of and improvements to such parks
19 and recreational facilities. The indebtedness shall be a lien on
20 the property assessed for the payment of the bonds. The Legislature
21 may not authorize the issuance of bonds or provide for indebtedness
22 under this subsection against a conservation and reclamation
23 district unless a proposition is first submitted to the qualified
24 voters of the district and the proposition is adopted. This
25 subsection expands the authority of the Legislature with respect to
26 certain conservation and reclamation districts and is not a
27 limitation on the authority of the Legislature with respect to

1 conservation and reclamation districts and parks and recreational
2 facilities pursuant to this section as that authority existed
3 before September 13, 2003.

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

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.J.R. No. 30 was adopted by the Senate on April 23, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 26, Nays 5; May 28, 2003, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 29, 2003, House granted request of the Senate; May 31, 2003, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.J.R. No. 30 was adopted by the House, with amendments, on May 24, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 130, Nays 0, two present not voting; May 29, 2003, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; June 1, 2003, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House