

By: Lindsay

S.J.R. No. 30

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

23 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (c-1), the [~~The~~]  
24 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."