

By: Riddle

H.J.R. No. 2

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to allow the state highway  
2 fund to be used to pay death benefits to the survivors of veterans  
3 and to allow the retroactive payment of death benefits to the  
4 survivors of certain veterans.

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

6 SECTION 1. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by  
7 adding Section 49-b-1 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 49-b-1. The legislature may provide by law for the  
9 payment of death benefits to the survivors of military veterans,  
10 including payments to survivors of veterans who died on or after  
11 September 11, 2001.

12 SECTION 2. Section 7-a, Article VIII, Texas Constitution,  
13 is amended to read as follows:

14 Sec. 7-a. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), and  
15 subject [Subject] to legislative appropriation, allocation and  
16 direction, all net revenues remaining after payment of all refunds  
17 allowed by law and expenses of collection derived from motor  
18 vehicle registration fees, and all taxes, except gross production  
19 and ad valorem taxes, on motor fuels and lubricants used to propel  
20 motor vehicles over public roadways, shall be used for the sole  
21 purpose of acquiring rights-of-way, constructing, maintaining, and  
22 policing such public roadways, and for the administration of such  
23 laws as may be prescribed by the Legislature pertaining to the  
24 supervision of traffic and safety on such roads; and for the payment

1 of the principal and interest on county and road district bonds or  
2 warrants voted or issued prior to January 2, 1939, and declared  
3 eligible prior to January 2, 1945, for payment out of the County and  
4 Road District Highway Fund under existing law; provided, however,  
5 that one-fourth (1/4) of such net revenue from the motor fuel tax  
6 shall be allocated to the Available School Fund; and, provided,  
7 however, that the net revenue derived by counties from motor  
8 vehicle registration fees shall never be less than the maximum  
9 amounts allowed to be retained by each County and the percentage  
10 allowed to be retained by each County under the laws in effect on  
11 January 1, 1945. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as  
12 authorizing the pledging of the State's credit for any purpose.

13 (b) The legislature may provide by law that revenue  
14 collected under this section be used to pay death benefits to the  
15 survivors of military veterans.

16 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be  
17 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 8, 2005.  
18 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the  
19 proposition: "The constitutional amendment to allow the state  
20 highway fund to be used to pay death benefits to the survivors of  
21 military veterans and to allow the retroactive payment of death  
22 benefits to the survivors of certain veterans."