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S.J.R. No. 4

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment excepting certain  
2 appropriations for reducing state debt from the constitutional  
3 limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 22(a), Article VIII, Texas Constitution,  
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 (a) In no biennium shall the rate of growth of  
8 appropriations from state tax revenues, other than state tax  
9 revenues ~~[not]~~ dedicated by this constitution and state tax  
10 revenues appropriated for the purpose of paying the principal of or  
11 interest on state debt, exceed the estimated rate of growth of the  
12 state's economy. The legislature shall provide by general law  
13 procedures to implement this subsection.

14 SECTION 2. The following temporary provision is added to  
15 the Texas Constitution:

16 TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies  
17 to the amendment to Section 22(a), Article VIII, of this  
18 constitution as proposed by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session,  
19 2015, excepting certain appropriations for reducing state debt from  
20 the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of  
21 appropriations. This temporary provision expires December 1, 2017.

22 (b) The change made to Section 22(a), Article VIII, of this  
23 constitution by the amendment applies only in relation to  
24 appropriations made for the state fiscal biennium beginning

1 September 1, 2017, and subsequent state fiscal bienniums.  
2 Appropriations for the state fiscal biennium that began September  
3 1, 2015, are governed by Section 22, Article VIII, as that section  
4 provided immediately before the voters approved the amendment.

5 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be  
6 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2015.  
7 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the  
8 proposition: "The constitutional amendment excepting certain  
9 appropriations for reducing state debt from the constitutional  
10 limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations."