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S.J.R. No. 12

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 proposing a constitutional amendment prescribing the purposes for  
3 which revenue from motor vehicle registration fees, certain motor  
4 vehicle-related taxes, and certain revenues received from the  
5 federal government may be used.

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

7 SECTION 1. Sections 7-a and 7-b, Article VIII, Texas  
8 Constitution, are amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 7-a. Subject to legislative appropriation, allocation  
10 and direction, all net revenues remaining after payment of all  
11 refunds allowed by law and expenses of collection derived from  
12 motor vehicle registration fees, and all taxes, except gross  
13 production and ad valorem taxes, on motor fuels and lubricants used  
14 to propel motor vehicles over public roadways, shall be used for the  
15 sole purpose of acquiring rights-of-way and~~[ ]~~ constructing and~~[ ]~~  
16 maintaining~~[, and policing]~~ such public roadways~~[, and for the~~  
17 ~~administration of such laws as may be prescribed by the Legislature~~  
18 ~~pertaining to the supervision of traffic and safety on such roads,~~  
19 ~~and for the payment of the principal and interest on county and road~~  
20 ~~district bonds or warrants voted or issued prior to January 2, 1939,~~  
21 ~~and declared eligible prior to January 2, 1945, for payment out of~~  
22 ~~the County and Road District Highway Fund under existing law];~~  
23 provided, however, that one-fourth (1/4) of such net revenue from  
24 the motor fuel tax shall be allocated to the Available School Fund;

1 and, provided, however, that the net revenue derived by counties  
2 from motor vehicle registration fees shall never be less than the  
3 maximum amounts allowed to be retained by each County and the  
4 percentage allowed to be retained by each County under the laws in  
5 effect on January 1, 1945. Nothing contained herein shall be  
6 construed as authorizing the pledging of the State's credit for any  
7 purpose.

8       Sec. 7-b. All revenues received from the federal government  
9 as reimbursement for state expenditures of funds that are  
10 themselves dedicated for acquiring rights-of-way and constructing  
11 and~~[,] maintaining[, and policing]~~ public roadways are also  
12 constitutionally dedicated and shall be used only for those  
13 purposes.

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 constitutional amendment proposed by the 84th Legislature,  
18 Regular Session, 2015, prescribing the purposes for which revenue  
19 from motor vehicle registration fees, taxes on motor fuels and  
20 lubricants, and certain revenues received from the federal  
21 government may be used.

22       (b) The amendments to Sections 7-a and 7-b, Article VIII, of  
23 this constitution apply only in connection with a state fiscal  
24 biennium that begins on or after September 1, 2017.

25       (c) This temporary provision expires September 2, 2017.

26       SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be  
27 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2015.

1 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the  
2 proposition: "The constitutional amendment prescribing the  
3 purposes for which revenue from motor vehicle registration fees,  
4 taxes on motor fuels and lubricants, and certain revenues received  
5 from the federal government may be used."