

By: Taylor of Collin

S.J.R. No. 24

A JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment providing for certain excess revenue to be dedicated toward contributions to state retirement systems, the health benefit plan for retired education employees and their dependents, the Texas tomorrow fund, the permanent school fund, and the permanent university fund.

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

SECTION 1. Section 49-g, Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by adding Subsections (p), (q), (r), and (s) to read as follows:

(p) When the comptroller acts to prevent the amount in the economic stabilization fund from exceeding the limit in effect for a biennium under Subsection (g) of this section by reducing an amount transferred to the fund from general revenue as provided by Subsection (b) or (c) of this section or by crediting to general revenue interest due to the economic stabilization fund as provided by Subsection (i) of this section, the comptroller shall credit to an account in the general revenue fund of the state treasury:

(1) if the comptroller reduces the amount transferred under Subsection (b) of this section, an amount of general revenue equal to the difference between the amount transferred to the economic stabilization fund under Subsection (b) of this section and the amount that would have been transferred under that subsection but for the limit in effect under Subsection (g) of this section;

1 (2) if the comptroller reduces the amount transferred
2 under Subsection (c) of this section, an amount of general revenue
3 equal to the difference between the amount transferred to the
4 economic stabilization fund under Subsection (c) of this section
5 and the amount that would have been transferred under that
6 subsection but for the limit in effect under Subsection (g) of this
7 section; and

8 (3) if the comptroller reduces the amount credited to
9 the economic stabilization fund under Subsection (i) of this
10 section, an amount of general revenue equal to the amount credited
11 to general revenue under that subsection.

12 (q) General revenue credited to the account of the general
13 revenue fund in the state treasury as provided by Subsection (p) of
14 this section, and the interest or other earnings on the balance of
15 that account, may be appropriated only for the following purposes:

16 (1) making an additional contribution to the Employees
17 Retirement System of Texas created under Section 67(b), Article
18 XVI, of this constitution, subject to Subsection (r) of this
19 section;

20 (2) making an additional contribution to the Teacher
21 Retirement System of Texas created under Section 67(b), Article
22 XVI, of this constitution, or to the health benefit plan created for
23 the retired members of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and
24 their dependents; and

25 (3) making an additional contribution to the Texas
26 tomorrow fund created under Section 19, Article VII, of this
27 constitution.

1 (r) The legislature may appropriate general revenue for the
2 purpose of a contribution described by Subsection (q)(1) of this
3 section only if the legislature first adopts a resolution finding
4 that both the Legislative Budget Board, or that board's successor
5 in function, and the comptroller have determined that the Employees
6 Retirement System of Texas has not been, for at least three of the
7 preceding five years, actuarially sound because the system's total
8 contribution rate has not been sufficient to cover the system's
9 normal cost and administrative expenses and to amortize the
10 system's unfunded accrued actuarial liability for a period of 31
11 years.

12 (s) On the last day of the state fiscal biennium during
13 which the money was credited to the account of the general revenue
14 fund in the state treasury as provided by Subsection (p) of this
15 section, the comptroller shall transfer the remaining
16 unappropriated and unobligated balance of that account to the
17 credit of the permanent school fund and the permanent university
18 fund in equal amounts.

19 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
20 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 7, 2017.
21 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the
22 proposition: "The constitutional amendment providing for certain
23 excess revenue to be dedicated toward contributions to state
24 retirement systems, the health benefit plan for retired education
25 employees and their dependents, the Texas tomorrow fund, the
26 permanent school fund, and the permanent university fund."