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By:  Reynolds H.J.R. No. 87

A JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment requiring the payment of reparations to the next of kin of certain victims of the state's convict leasing system.

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

SECTION 1.  Article I, Texas Constitution, is amended by adding Section 30a to read as follows:

Sec. 30a.  (a) In this section, "commission" means the Texas Historical Commission or its successor in function.

(b)  The commission, in consultation with any agency of the state that the commission determines is necessary, shall identify the next of kin, if any, of each of the 95 convict leasing victims whose remains were discovered in 2018 at the site of the former Imperial State Prison Farm in Sugar Land. The next of kin described by this subsection are entitled to reparations to compensate for the harm caused by the state's convict leasing system.

(c)  The commission shall determine the amount of reparations to which the next of kin described by Subsection (a) of this section are entitled.

(d)  The commission shall adopt a schedule of reparations payments for the next of kin described by Subsection (a) of this section. Each next of kin is entitled to an equal dollar amount of the reparations.

(e)  Reparations are payable from funds appropriated for that purpose. Payment shall be made in the manner provided by law under the general supervision of the commission.

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

TEMPORARY PROVISION. This temporary provision applies to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, that requires the Texas Historical Commission to make payments of reparations to the next of kin of certain victims of the state's convict leasing system. On the date the commission completes reparations payments to the next of kin:

(1)  this temporary provision expires; and

(2)  Section 30a, Article I, of this constitution expires.

SECTION 3.  This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 5, 2019. The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment requiring the payment of reparations to the next of kin of certain victims of the state's convict leasing system."