

By: Thompson of Harris, Bonnen of Galveston,
Coleman, Phelan, Moody, et al.

H.J.R. No. 5

Substitute the following for H.J.R. No. 5:

By: Coleman

C.S.H.J.R. No. 5

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of
2 general obligation bonds by the Texas Public Finance Authority to
3 fund research, treatment, and access to services in this state for
4 behavioral health, mental health, and substance use and addiction
5 issues.

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

7 SECTION 1. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by
8 adding Section 68 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 68. (a) Subject to Subsection (b) of this section, the
10 legislature by general law may authorize the Texas Public Finance
11 Authority or its successor to provide for, issue, and sell general
12 obligation bonds of the State of Texas and to enter into related
13 credit agreements for the purpose of funding programs:

14 (1) to research behavioral health issues generally,
15 including causes of behavioral health issues, public health trends
16 and strategies regarding behavioral health issues, and new
17 behavioral health treatments, interventions, and other solutions;

18 (2) to research substance use and addiction issues,
19 including genetic determinates of addiction, identification of and
20 mitigation of substance use and addiction risk factors, addiction
21 recovery, pain management strategies, and prescription practices;

22 (3) to research behavioral health and mental health
23 issues affecting children and adolescents, including unidentified
24 and untreated mental illness, involvement in the juvenile justice

1 system, and suicide prevention; and

2 (4) to address the shortage of mental health
3 professionals in this state, including programs to increase access
4 to mental health professionals in this state, programs to increase
5 the use of telemedicine in the treatment of behavioral health or
6 mental health issues, and programs to provide loan repayment
7 assistance and other funding for mental health professionals,
8 including physicians and advanced practice nurses trained in the
9 prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness in children
10 and adolescents.

11 (b) The Texas Public Finance Authority may not issue or sell
12 general obligation bonds authorized under this section in an amount
13 that exceeds \$3 billion and may not issue in a year more than \$500
14 million in bonds authorized under this section.

15 (c) Proceeds from the sale of the bonds shall be deposited
16 in separate funds or accounts, as provided by general law, in the
17 state treasury to be used by the Health and Human Services
18 Commission or its successor to provide grants to public or private
19 institutions of higher education in this state or other state
20 agencies or government entities for the purposes provided by
21 Subsection (a) of this section.

22 (d) The bond proceeds may be used to pay the costs of issuing
23 the bonds and any administrative expense related to the bonds.

24 (e) While any of the bonds or interest on the bonds is
25 outstanding and unpaid, from the first money coming into the state
26 treasury in each fiscal year not otherwise appropriated by this
27 constitution, an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and

1 interest on bonds that mature or become due during the fiscal year
2 and to make payments that become due under a related credit
3 agreement during the fiscal year is appropriated, less the amount
4 in the sinking fund at the close of the previous fiscal year.

5 (f) Bonds issued under this section, after approval by the
6 attorney general, registration by the comptroller of public
7 accounts, and delivery to the purchasers, are incontestable and are
8 general obligations of the State of Texas under this constitution.

9 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
10 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 5, 2019.
11 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
12 proposition: "The constitutional amendment providing for the
13 issuance of up to \$3 billion in general obligation bonds by the
14 Texas Public Finance Authority to fund research, treatment, and
15 access to services in this state for behavioral health, mental
16 health, and substance use and addiction issues."