

By: Reynolds

H.J.R. No. 87

A JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (e) Reparations are payable from funds appropriated for
24 that purpose. Payment shall be made in the manner provided by law

1 under the general supervision of the commission.

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

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

10 (1) this temporary provision expires; and

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

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