87R9153 SRA-D

By:  Thompson of Harris H.J.R. No. 5

A JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds and the dedication of bond proceeds to the Brain Institute of Texas research fund established to fund brain research in this state.

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

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

Sec. 68.  (a) The Brain Institute of Texas research fund is established in the state treasury and consists of:

(1)  money deposited to the fund from the sale of bonds as provided by this section;

(2)  appropriations made to the fund by the legislature;

(3)  gifts and grants, including grants from the federal government and other organizations, made to the fund or the Brain Institute of Texas; and

(4)  all interest, dividends, and other income of the fund.

(b)  Money from the Brain Institute of Texas research fund may be used as provided by general law for the purpose of funding:

(1)  grants to institutions of higher education in this state for brain research;

(2)  brain disease and disorder prevention health care;

(3)  recruitment and development of brain researchers;

(4)  activities identified in the Texas Brain Research Plan;

(5)  research facilities in this state that conduct brain research;

(6)  the purchase, subject to approval by the Brain Institute of Texas, of research facilities by or for a grant recipient; and

(7)  the operation of the institute.

(c)  The legislature by general law may authorize the Texas Public Finance Authority to provide for, issue, and sell general obligation bonds of the State of Texas on behalf of the Brain Institute of Texas in an amount not to exceed $5 billion and to enter into related credit agreements. The Texas Public Finance Authority may not issue more than $500 million in bonds authorized by this subsection in a year. The bonds shall be executed in the form, on the terms, and in the denominations, bear interest, and be issued in installments as prescribed by the Texas Public Finance Authority.

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

(e)  While any of the bonds or interest on the bonds authorized by this section is outstanding and unpaid, from the first money coming into the state treasury in each fiscal year not otherwise appropriated by this constitution, an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on bonds that mature or become due during the fiscal year and to make payments that become due under a related credit agreement during the fiscal year is appropriated, less the amount in the sinking fund at the close of the previous fiscal year.

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

(g)  The Texas Public Finance Authority shall consider using a business whose principal place of business is located in the state to issue the bonds authorized by this section and shall include using a historically underutilized business as defined by general law.

SECTION 2.  This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 2, 2021. The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of up to $5 billion in general obligation bonds and the dedication of bond proceeds to the Brain Institute of Texas research fund established to fund brain research in this state."