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By:  Raymond H.J.R. No. 49

A JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing Webb County to delegate its authority to manage and dispose of county school land and invest and manage the proceeds from the county permanent school fund.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 6, Article VII, Texas Constitution, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 6.  (a) All lands heretofore, or hereafter granted to the several counties of this State for educational purposes, are of right the property of said counties respectively, to which they were granted, and title thereto is vested in said counties, and no adverse possession or limitation shall ever be available against the title of any county. Each county may sell or dispose of its lands in whole or in part, in manner to be provided by the Commissioners Court of the county. Said lands, and, except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section, the proceeds thereof, when sold, shall be held by said counties alone as a trust for the benefit of public schools therein; said proceeds to be invested in bonds of the United States, the State of Texas, or counties in said State, or in such other securities, and under such restrictions as may be prescribed by law; and the counties shall be responsible for all investments; the interest thereon, and other revenue, except the principal shall be available fund.

(b)  Webb County may enter into an agreement with the school districts for which Webb County holds lands in trust under this section under which Webb County delegates to a committee whose membership consists of members of the boards of trustees of the school districts to:

(1)  sell, lease, manage, or otherwise dispose of the lands held in trust;

(2)  develop or sell the rights to natural resources or minerals in the lands held in trust; and

(3)  invest and manage all or part of the proceeds of Webb County's permanent school fund.

(c)  The proceeds from a disposition of land authorized under Subsection (b) of this section shall be held by Webb County as a trust for the benefit of the school districts as provided by Subsection (a) of this section.

(d)  The committee described in Subsection (b) of this section shall consist of one trustee appointed by each of the school districts for which the lands are held in trust by Webb County under this section. Additional trustees from each school district shall be appointed to the committee based on the school district's average daily attendance at a rate of one trustee per 15,000 students.

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 to authorize Webb County to enter into an agreement to delegate its authority regarding the management and disposition of county school lands from Webb County to the school districts for which the lands are held in trust and to delegate its authority to invest and manage proceeds of Webb County's permanent school fund from Webb County to the school districts for which the lands are held in trust."