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By:  Campos H.J.R. No. 90

A JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds to provide funding for the construction, expansion, maintenance, and operation of state mental health facilities.

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

SECTION 1.  Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by adding Section 49-q to read as follows:

Sec. 49-q.  (a) The legislature by general law may authorize the Health and Human Services Commission or that agency's successor to provide for, issue, and sell general obligation bonds of the State of Texas in an amount not to exceed $10 billion and to enter into related credit agreements to provide funding for the construction, expansion, maintenance, and operation of state mental health facilities. 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 Health and Human Services Commission or that agency's successor.

(b)  A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds and a portion of the interest earned on the bonds may be used to pay:

(1)  the costs of administering projects authorized by this section;

(2)  the cost or expense of the issuance of the bonds;

(3)  refunding bonds and related credit agreements authorized by this section; and

(4)  all or part of a payment owed or to be owed under a credit agreement.

(c)  The bonds authorized under this section constitute a general obligation of the state. While any of the bonds or interest on the bonds is outstanding and unpaid, there is appropriated out of the first money coming into the treasury each fiscal year, not otherwise appropriated by this constitution, an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds that mature or become due during the fiscal year, including an amount sufficient to make payments under a related credit agreement.

(d)  The proceeds from the issuance and sale of the bonds, and the interest earned on the bonds, are appropriated when received by the state, and may be used as provided by this section and any law enacted under this section without further appropriation.

(e)  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.

SECTION 2.  This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 7, 2023. The ballot shall be printed to provide voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds to provide funding for the construction, expansion, maintenance, and operation of state mental health facilities."