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By:  King of Hemphill H.J.R. No. 154

A JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be administered by the Parks and Wildlife Department.

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

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

Sec. 49-e-1.  (a) The centennial parks conservation fund is created as a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund. Money in the centennial parks conservation fund shall be administered, without further appropriation, by the Parks and Wildlife Department or the department's successor in function. In accordance with general law, the centennial parks conservation fund may be used only for the creation and improvement of state and local parks and the conservation of land, water, and soil in this state. Separate accounts may be established in the centennial parks conservation fund as necessary or convenient to administer the fund or the supported projects.

(b)  The legislature by general law may authorize the Parks and Wildlife Department or the department's successor in function to use the centennial parks conservation fund to provide financial assistance to support projects for public purposes consistent with this section through grants administered by the department or the department's successor in function. The financial assistance authorized by this subsection may be provided directly to public or private entities as provided by general law.

(c)  In accordance with general law, the Parks and Wildlife Department or the department's successor in function may, at that entity's discretion, transfer money from the centennial parks conservation fund to other programs and funds of the department or the department's successor in function.

(d)  The centennial parks conservation fund consists of:

(1)  money appropriated to the fund;

(2)  money transferred or deposited to the credit of the fund by general law;

(3)  investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; and

(4)  gifts, grants, and donations received for the fund.

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 permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be administered by the Parks and Wildlife Department and used for the creation and improvement of state and local parks and the conservation of land, water, and soil in this state."