

By: Landgraf

H.J.R. No. 47

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the creation of
2 the Texas severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas (Texas
3 STRONG) defense fund, dedicating the money in that fund to benefit
4 areas of the state significantly affected by oil and gas
5 production, and providing for the transfer of certain general
6 revenues to that fund, the economic stabilization fund, and certain
7 other funds and accounts.

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

9 SECTION 1. Section 49-g, Article III, Texas Constitution,
10 is amended by amending Subsections (c), (c-1), and (c-2) and adding
11 Subsection (c-3) to read as follows:

12 (c) Not later than the 90th day of each fiscal year, the
13 comptroller of public accounts shall transfer from the general
14 revenue fund to the economic stabilization fund, ~~and~~ the state
15 highway fund, the oil and gas regulation and cleanup account or a
16 successor account, the Texas emissions reduction plan fund or a
17 successor fund, and the Texas severance tax revenue and oil and
18 natural gas (Texas STRONG) defense fund the sum of the amounts
19 described by Subsections (d) and (e) of this section, to be
20 allocated as provided by Subsections (c-1) and (c-2) of this
21 section. However, if necessary and notwithstanding the allocations
22 prescribed by Subsections (c-1) and (c-2) of this section, the
23 comptroller shall reduce proportionately the amounts described by
24 Subsections (d) and (e) of this section to be transferred and

1 allocated to the economic stabilization fund to prevent the amount
2 in that fund from exceeding the limit in effect for that biennium
3 under Subsection (g) of this section. Revenue transferred to the
4 state highway fund under this subsection may be used only for
5 constructing, maintaining, and acquiring rights-of-way for public
6 roadways other than toll roads.

7 (c-1) Except as provided by Subsection (c-2) of this
8 section, the comptroller shall allocate [~~Of~~] the sum of the amounts
9 described by Subsections (d) and (e) of this section and required to
10 be transferred from the general revenue fund under Subsection (c)
11 of this section as follows:

12 (1) 38 percent [~~, the comptroller shall allocate~~
13 ~~one-half~~] to the economic stabilization fund;

14 (2) 10 percent to the Texas severance tax revenue and
15 oil and natural gas (Texas STRONG) defense fund, subject to
16 Subsection (c-3) of this section;

17 (3) one percent to the oil and gas regulation and
18 cleanup account or a successor account;

19 (4) one percent to the Texas emissions reduction plan
20 fund or a successor fund; and

21 (5) the remainder to the state highway fund [~~, except~~
22 ~~as provided by Subsection (c-2) of this section~~].

23 (c-2) The legislature by general law shall provide for a
24 procedure by which the allocation prescribed by Subsection (c-1)
25 [~~of the sum of the amounts described by Subsections (d) and (e)]~~ of
26 this section may be adjusted to provide for a transfer to the
27 economic stabilization fund of an amount greater than the

1 allocation provided for under that subsection [~~Subsection (c-1) of~~
2 ~~this section~~] with the remainder of that sum, if any, allocated for
3 transfer to the other funds and accounts described by that
4 subsection as provided by general law [~~state highway fund~~]. The
5 allocation made as provided by that general law is binding on the
6 comptroller for the purposes of the transfers required by
7 Subsection (c) of this section.

8 (c-3) If the amount allocated to be transferred to the Texas
9 severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas (Texas STRONG)
10 defense fund for a state fiscal year under Subsection (c-1) or (c-2)
11 of this section would cause the total amount allocated for transfer
12 to the fund under those subsections for a state fiscal year to
13 exceed \$500 million, the comptroller shall:

14 (1) reduce the amount allocated to be transferred to
15 the fund under the applicable subsection by the amount that would
16 exceed \$500 million for the year; and

17 (2) transfer the amount by which the allocation is
18 reduced under Subdivision (1) of this subsection to the property
19 tax relief fund or a successor fund.

20 SECTION 2. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by
21 adding Section 49-g-1 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 49-g-1. (a) The Texas severance tax revenue and oil
23 and natural gas (Texas STRONG) defense fund is established as a fund
24 in the state treasury.

25 (b) The Texas severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas
26 (Texas STRONG) defense fund may consist of:

27 (1) money transferred to the fund under Section 49-g

1 of this article;

2 (2) money appropriated to the fund by the legislature;

3 (3) money that the legislature by statute dedicates
4 for deposit to the credit of the fund;

5 (4) gifts or grants contributed to the fund; and

6 (5) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts
7 credited to the fund.

8 (c) The legislature may appropriate money from the Texas
9 severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas (Texas STRONG)
10 defense fund only for use in areas of the state that are
11 significantly affected by oil and gas production as determined by
12 the legislature. Money appropriated from the fund may be used as
13 provided by general law to fund grants to state agencies, political
14 subdivisions of the state, public institutions of higher education,
15 and nonprofit organizations to address public health and safety
16 concerns and workforce preparedness needs and to supplement
17 educational opportunities.

18 (d) On the last day of each state fiscal biennium, the
19 comptroller of public accounts shall transfer any unobligated and
20 unappropriated money that remains in the fund on that date to the
21 general revenue fund.

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

24 TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies
25 to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 89th Legislature,
26 Regular Session, 2025, providing for the creation of the Texas
27 severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas (Texas STRONG)

1 defense fund, dedicating the money in that fund to benefit areas of
2 the state significantly affected by oil and gas production, and
3 providing for the transfer of certain general revenues to that
4 fund, the economic stabilization fund, and certain other funds and
5 accounts.

6 (b) Section 49-g-1, Article III, of this constitution, as
7 added by the amendment, and the amendment to Section 49-g, Article
8 III, of this constitution, take effect September 1, 2027.

9 (c) This temporary provision expires September 1, 2028.

10 SECTION 4. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
11 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2025.
12 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
13 proposition: "The constitutional amendment providing for the
14 creation of the Texas severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas
15 (Texas STRONG) defense fund, dedicating the money in that fund to
16 benefit areas of the state significantly affected by oil and gas
17 production, and providing for the transfer of certain general
18 revenues to that fund, the economic stabilization fund, and certain
19 other funds and accounts used to construct roads, reduce the
20 emission of air contaminants, regulate oil and gas development, and
21 provide property tax relief."