

By: Wilson

H.J.R. No. 203

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment establishing the Texas Health
2 Care Workforce Education Fund to provide funding to eligible
3 institutions of higher education to address Texas' health care
4 workforce needs and drive the state economy.

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

6 SECTION 1. Article VII, Texas Constitution, is amended by
7 adding Section 21 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 21. (a) The Texas Health Care Workforce Education Fund
9 is established for the purpose of providing a dedicated,
10 independent, and equitable source of funding to enable
11 comprehensive regional universities in this state to address Texas'
12 health care workforce needs.

13 (b) The fund consists of:

14 (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to
15 the fund by the legislature;

16 (2) gifts, grants, and donations received for purposes
17 of the fund; and

18 (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts
19 credited to the fund.

20 (c) The legislature shall provide for administration of the
21 fund, which shall be invested in the manner and according to the
22 standards provided for investment of the permanent university fund.

23 The expenses of managing the fund and its assets shall be paid from
24 the fund.

1 (d) In each state fiscal biennium, the legislature may
2 appropriate as provided by Subsection (f) of this section all or a
3 portion of the total return on all investment assets of the fund to
4 carry out the purposes for which the fund is established.

5 (e) The legislature biennially shall allocate the amounts
6 appropriated under this section, or shall provide for a biennial
7 allocation of those amounts, to eligible state universities to
8 carry out the purposes of the fund. The money shall be allocated
9 based on an equitable formula established by the legislature or an
10 agency designated by the legislature. The legislature shall review
11 and as appropriate adjust, or provide for a review and adjustment
12 of, the allocation formula at the end of each state fiscal biennium.

13 (f) The portion of the total return on investment assets of
14 the fund that is available for appropriation in a state fiscal
15 biennium under this section is the portion determined by the
16 legislature, or an agency designated by the legislature, as
17 necessary to provide as nearly as practicable a stable and
18 predictable stream of annual distributions to eligible state
19 universities and to maintain over time the purchasing power of fund
20 investment assets. If the purchasing power of fund investment
21 assets for any rolling 10-year period is not preserved, the
22 distributions may not be increased until the purchasing power of
23 the fund investment assets is restored. The amount appropriated
24 from the fund in any fiscal year may not exceed an amount equal to
25 seven percent of the average net fair market value of the investment
26 assets of the fund, as determined by law. Until the fund has been
27 invested for a period of time sufficient to determine the

1 purchasing power over a 10-year period, the legislature may provide
2 by law for means of preserving the purchasing power of the fund.

3 (g) The legislature shall establish criteria by which a
4 state university may become eligible to receive a portion of the
5 distributions from the fund.

6 (h) An eligible state university may use distributions from
7 the fund only for the support and maintenance of educational and
8 general activities that address the health care workforce needs of
9 the state. The legislature by general law may provide that a state
10 university that receives a distribution from the fund in a state
11 fiscal biennium may use the funds in a subsequent state fiscal
12 biennium without further appropriation.

13 (i) For purposes of Section 22, Article VIII, of this
14 constitution:

15 (1) money in the fund is dedicated by this
16 constitution; and

17 (2) an appropriation of state tax revenues for the
18 purpose of depositing money to the credit of the fund is treated as
19 if it were an appropriation of revenues dedicated by this
20 constitution.

21 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
22 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2025.
23 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
24 proposition: "The constitutional amendment establishing the Texas
25 Health Care Workforce Education Fund to provide funding to eligible
26 institutions of higher education to address Texas' health care
27 workforce needs and drive the state economy."