

Regular Session, 1997

HOUSE BILL NO. 720

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPRE

TAX/SEVERANCE TAX: (Constitutional Amendment) Increases the limitation on the general severance tax allocation to parishes

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article VII, Section 4(D) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to increase the maximum amount of the severance tax on certain natural resources which is remitted to parish governing authorities; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article VII, Section 4(D) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§4. Income Tax; Severance Tax; Political Subdivisions

Section 4.

\* \* \*

(D) Severance Tax Allocation. One-third of the sulphur severance tax, but not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars; one-third of the lignite severance tax, but not to exceed one hundred

1           thousand dollars; one-fifth of the severance tax on all natural resources,  
2           other than sulphur, lignite, or timber, but not to exceed one million five  
3           hundred thousand dollars; and three-fourths of the timber severance tax  
4           shall be remitted to the governing authority of the parish in which  
5           severance or production occurs.

6   \*       \*       \*

7           Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be  
8           submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the congressional primary  
9           election to be held in 1998.

10           Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used  
11           at said election there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors  
12           of the state shall be permitted to vote FOR or AGAINST, to amend the  
13           Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as follows:

14                           To increase the maximum amount of the severance tax imposed  
15                           and collected by the state on natural resources other than  
16                           sulphur, lignite, and timber which is remitted to the parish  
17                           governing authority where the severance occurs from five  
18                           hundred thousand dollars to one million five hundred thousand  
19                           dollars. (Amends Article VII, Section 4(D))

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

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Dupre

HB No. 720

Present constitution provides that 1/5 of the severance tax on natural resources, other than sulphur, lignite, and timber, imposed and collected by the state be remitted to the parish governing authority in the parish in which the severance occurs. The amount which is remitted to a parish is capped at \$500,000 in any year.

Proposed constitutional amendment increases the cap from \$500,000 to \$1,500,000.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the congressional primary election in 1998.

(Amends Const. Art. VII, §4(D))