

Regular Session, 1997

HOUSE BILL NO. 852

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACK SMITH

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article VII, Section 7(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the Interim Emergency Board; to allow the board to appropriate funds to avert an impending flood emergency; 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 7(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§7. State Debt; Interim Emergency Board

Section 7.

* * *

(B) Powers. Between sessions of the legislature, when the board by majority vote determines that an emergency or impending flood emergency exists, it may appropriate from the state general fund or borrow on the full faith and credit of the state an amount to meet the emergency. The appropriation may be made or the indebtedness incurred only for a purpose for which the legislature may appropriate funds and then only after the board obtains, as provided by law, the written consent of two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature. For the purposes of this Paragraph, an emergency is an event or occurrence not reasonably anticipated by the legislature and an impending flood emergency shall be an anticipated situation which endangers an existing flood protection structure. The appropriation or

indebtedness incurred for an impending flood emergency shall not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars for any one event or occurrence. For an impending emergency to qualify for funding it must be determined as such by the United States Army Corp of Engineers or the United States Coast Guard. Total funding for such impending emergencies shall not exceed twenty-five percent of the funds annually available to the Interim Emergency Board.

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

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

To allow the Interim Emergency Board to appropriate funds to avert an impending flood emergency defined by the United States Army Corp of Engineers or the United States Coast Guard to be an anticipated situation which endangers an existing flood protection structure. Appropriations for such purposes shall not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars for any one situation nor exceed twenty-five percent of the funds annually available to the Interim Emergency Board. (Amends Article VII, Section 7(B))

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE