

Regular Session, 2001

SENATE BILL NO. 244

BY SENATOR MALONE

FARMING. Constitutional amendment to authorize legislature by law to assist certain farmers and provide funds therefor.(2/3-CA13s1(A))

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to add Article VII, Section 10.11 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to providing funds for the support of farming; to authorize the legislature by law to establish and implement programs to assist certain farmers; to authorize the legislature by law to provide for and maintain a permanent trust fund to provide revenue to fund such assistance; to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition; 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, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to add Article VII, Section 10.11 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§10.11. Farm support program; trust fund authorized

**Article VII, Section 10.11 is all proposed new law.**

A. Agriculture is essential not only to the economy of the state

1 but to the sustenance of the life of its people. Consequently, farming  
2 and persons who farm must be protected and nurtured. Likewise,  
3 groundwater, a natural resource of the state, must be protected,  
4 conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the  
5 health, safety, and welfare of the people.

6 B. Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the  
7 contrary, the legislature by law may establish and implement one or  
8 more programs to assist farmers who voluntarily forgo agricultural  
9 production for the purpose of protecting, conserving, or replenishing  
10 groundwater supply during periods of drought. To fund such programs,  
11 the legislature by law may provide for and maintain a permanent trust  
12 fund to provide revenue to assist eligible farmers in the form of loans,  
13 grants, or other subsidies.

14 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be  
15 submitted to the electors of the state at the statewide election to be held in  
16 November 5, 2002.

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

21 To authorize the legislature by law to establish and implement  
22 programs to assist farmers who voluntarily forgo agricultural  
23 production for the purpose of protecting, conserving, or  
24 replenishing groundwater supply during periods of drought and  
25 to provide for and maintain a permanent trust fund to provide  
26 revenue to fund such assistance. (Adds Article VII, Section  
27 10.11)

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Todd Parker.

---

#### DIGEST

Proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the legislature by law to establish and implement one or more programs to assist farmers who voluntarily forgo agricultural production for the purpose of protecting, conserving, or replenishing groundwater supply during periods of drought. Further authorizes the legislature by law to provide for and maintain a permanent trust fund to provide revenue to assist eligible farmers in the form of loans, grants, or other subsidies.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held in November 5, 2002.

(Adds Const. Art. VII, §10.11)