

Regular Session, 2001

SENATE BILL NO. 244

BY SENATORS MALONE AND MARIONNEAUX

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 establish the Drought Protection Trust Fund as a special fund in the state treasury; to provide for deposit and use of monies in the fund; to authorize the legislature by law to provide for and maintain the fund; 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; Drought Protection Trust Fund

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

A. Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary, the legislature by law may establish and implement one or more programs to assist farmers who voluntarily forgo irrigating with groundwater for agricultural production for the purpose of protecting, conserving, or replenishing groundwater supply during periods of drought or to enhance and develop surface water resources for use by

farmers for irrigation purposes, or both.

B. The Drought Protection Trust Fund is hereby established in the state treasury as a special fund. The source of monies in this fund shall be public and private monies received by the state for the purposes of protection, development, and enhancement of groundwater and surface water resources of the state, any other revenues as may be provided by law, and any other monies which may be appropriated to the fund. The legislature may appropriate from the fund for the purpose of providing revenue to assist eligible farmers in the form of loans, grants, or other subsidies and to provide revenue for the development and enhancement of surface water resources. The legislature may provide by law relative to the Drought Protection Trust Fund.

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

Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the 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 authorize the legislature by law to establish and implement programs to assist farmers who voluntarily forgo irrigating with groundwater for agricultural production for the purpose of protecting, conserving, or replenishing groundwater supply during periods of drought or to provide for the development and enhancement of surface water resources for use by farmers for irrigation purposes, or both, and to provide for and maintain a

permanent trust fund to provide revenue to fund such assistance;  
to establish the Drought Protection Trust Fund as a special fund  
in the state treasury; to provide for sources of monies in the fund  
and use of the fund. (Adds Article VII, Section 10.11)

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES