

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 or to enhance and
11 develop surface water resources for use by farmers for irrigation
12 purposes, or both. To fund such programs, the legislature by law may
13 provide for and maintain a permanent trust fund to provide revenue to
14 assist eligible farmers in the form of loans, grants, or other subsidies
15 and to provide revenue for the development and enhancement of
16 surface water resources.

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

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

24 To authorize the legislature by law to establish and implement
25 programs to assist farmers who voluntarily forgo agricultural
26 production for the purpose of protecting, conserving, or
27 replenishing groundwater supply during periods of drought or to

1 provide for the development and enhancement of surface water
 2 resources for use by farmers for irrigation purposes, or both, and
 3 to provide for and maintain a permanent trust fund to provide
 4 revenue to fund such assistance. (Adds Article VII, Section
 5 10.11)

The original instrument was prepared by Todd Parker. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Thomas L. Tyler.

Malone (SB 244)

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 or to enhance and develop surface water resources for use by farmers for irrigation purposes, or both. 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 and to provide revenue for the development and enhancement of surface water resources.

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

(Adds Const. Art. VII, §10.11)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by SenateSenate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Adds provisions authorizing programs to enhance and develop surface water resources for irrigation.
2. Authorizes use of trust fund monies for development and enhancement of surface water resources.