SLS 201ES-27 ORIGINAL

2020 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE BILL NO. 12

BY SENATOR FESI

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UNCLAIMED PROPERTY. Constitutional amendment to dedicate unclaimed property funds and to create the Louisiana Unclaimed Property Permanent Trust Fund. (2/3 - CA13s1(A)) (Item #10) (7/1/21)

## A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to add Article VII, Section 10(F)(4)(i) and Part V of Article VII, to be comprised of Section 28, of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to unclaimed property funds; to provide for the creation of a special trust fund; to provide for the dedication and credit of unclaimed property monies; to provide for the investment, administration, and use of the monies in the special trust fund; to exempt the monies in the fund from reduction in certain circumstances; to provide for certain reporting requirements; to provide for appropriation of monies in the special fund; to provide for an effective date; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

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(F)(4)(i) and Part V of Article VII, comprised of Section 28, of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§10. Expenditure of State Funds

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(4) All monies shall be credited to the fund as provided in Subparagraph

(2) of this Paragraph until the balance in the UCP Permanent Trust Fund

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1	equals the amount of the state's potential liability to unclaimed property
2	claimants as reported in the previous fiscal year pursuant to Paragraph (C) of
3	this Section. All money received above the state's potential liability to unclaimed
4	property claimants as reported by the state treasurer shall be deposited into the
5	State General Fund.
6	(B) Investment and Administration. The money credited to the UCP
7	Permanent Trust Fund pursuant to Paragraph (A) of this Section shall be
8	permanently credited to the UCP Permanent Trust Fund and shall be invested
9	by the treasurer. Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the
10	contrary, a portion of money in the UCP Permanent Trust Fund, not to exceed
11	fifty percent of the money in the UCP Permanent Trust Fund, may be invested
12	in equities. The legislature shall establish by law procedures for the investment
13	of such monies. The treasurer may contract, subject to the approval of the State
14	Bond Commission, for the management of such investments. Investment
15	earnings shall be available for appropriation to pay expenses incurred in the
16	investment and management of the UCP Permanent Trust Fund.
17	(C) Reports; Allocation. (1) Not less than sixty days prior to the
18	beginning of each regular session of the legislature, the state treasurer shall
19	submit to the legislature and the governor a report of the following:
20	(a) The balance of the UCP Permanent Trust Fund as of the close of the
21	prior fiscal year.
22	(b) The state's potential liability to unclaimed property claimants as of
23	the close of the prior fiscal year.
24	(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (1) of this
25	Paragraph, not less than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular
26	Session of the legislature, the state treasurer shall submit to the legislature and
27	the governor a report of the following:
28	(a) The balance of the UCP Permanent Trust Fund as of January 1, 2022.
29	(b) The state's potential liability to unclaimed property claimants as of

the close of the prior fiscal year.

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	(3) If unclaimed property claims exceed receipts, the state treasurer shall
	certify the amount needed to pay received claims and shall allocate sufficient
	funds from the UCP Permanent Trust Fund to pay that amount. The state
	treasurer shall also immediately notify the legislature and governor of the
	amount transferred from the UCP Permanent Trust Fund and amount
	remaining in the UCP Permanent Trust Fund.
	(D) Private Property. Property received by the state pursuant to the
	Uniform Unclaimed Property Act of 1997 or its successor and deposited into the
	UCP Permanent Trust Fund is private property held in trust until a claim is
	made for it by the owner.
	Section 2. Be it further resolved that the provisions of the amendment contained
	in this Joint Resolution shall become effective on July 1, 2021.
	Section 3. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted
1	to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 3,
	2020.
	Section 4. 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 YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
	follows:
	Do you support an amendment to create the Louisiana
	Unclaimed Property Permanent Trust Fund to preserve the
	money that remains unclaimed by its owner or owners?

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<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> creates the UCP Permanent Trust Fund to be used solely for the payment of claims made by owners. Further, exempts the UCP Permanent Trust Fund from present constitution requirements relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund.

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<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> prohibits appropriation from the UCP Permanent Trust Fund

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> requires the net amount of monies received pursuant to <u>present law</u> (Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, R.S. 9:151 et seq.) to be credited to the UCP Permanent Trust Fund. Further provides that realized capital gains, dividend income, and interest income, earned on investments in the fund, net of trust fund investment and administrative expenses, shall be deposited into the State General Fund.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> requires the state treasurer to annually report the UCP Permanent Trust Fund balance and the state's potential liability for unclaimed property claims to the legislature and the governor. Further authorizes money to be deposited into the UCP Permanent Trust Fund until the balance in that fund equals the state's reported potential liability for all unclaimed property. Once this threshold is reached in the UCP Permanent Trust Fund, <u>proposed constitutional amendment</u> requires any additional money received to be deposited into the State General Fund.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> authorizes the state treasurer to invest up to 50% of the balance in the UCP Permanent Trust Fund in equities. Requires the legislature to establish procedures for the investment of the funds and authorizes the treasurer to contract for the management of the investments.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> authorizes the treasurer to transfer money from the UCP Permanent Trust Fund if claims for unclaimed property exceed receipts. Requires the treasurer to certify the amount needed to pay claims received and immediately notify the legislature and the governor of the new fund balance once he has transferred the money.

Proposal constitutional amendment becomes effective on July 1, 2021.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 3, 2020.

(Adds Const. Art. VII, §10(F)(4)(i) and §28)