HLS 14RS-1367 **REENGROSSED**

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 628

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BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. GERMAIN

FUNDS/FUNDING: (Constitutional Amendment) Authorizes the investment of public funds in a state infrastructure bank

1	A JOINT RESOLUTION
2	Proposing to amend Article VII, Section 14(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to
3	public funds; to authorize public funds to be used to invest in a state infrastructure
4	bank; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to
5	provide for related matters.
6	Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members
7	elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of
8	Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to
9	amend Article VII, Section 14(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:
10	§14. Donation, Loan, or Pledge of Public Credit
11	Section 14.
12	* * *
13	(B) Authorized Uses. Nothing in this Section shall prevent (1) the use of
14	public funds for programs of social welfare for the aid and support of the needy; (2)
15	contributions of public funds to pension and insurance programs for the benefit of
16	public employees; (3) the pledge of public funds, credit, property, or things of value
17	for public purposes with respect to the issuance of bonds or other evidences of

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indebtedness to meet public obligations as provided by law; (4) the return of

property, including mineral rights, to a former owner from whom the property had

previously been expropriated, or purchased under threat of expropriation, when the

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

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legislature by law declares that the public and necessary purpose which originally supported the expropriation has ceased to exist and orders the return of the property to the former owner under such terms and conditions as specified by the legislature; (5) acquisition of stock by any institution of higher education in exchange for any intellectual property; (6) the donation of abandoned or blighted housing property by the governing authority of a municipality or a parish to a nonprofit organization which is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization and which agrees to renovate and maintain such property until conveyance of the property by such organization; (7) the deduction of any tax, interest, penalty, or other charges forming the basis of tax liens on blighted property so that they may be subordinated and waived in favor of any purchaser who is not a member of the immediate family of the blighted property owner or which is not any entity in which the owner has a substantial economic interest, but only in connection with a property renovation plan approved by an administrative hearing officer appointed by the parish or municipal government where the property is located; (8) the deduction of past due taxes, interest, and penalties in favor of an owner of a blighted property, but only when the owner sells the property at less than the appraised value to facilitate the blighted property renovation plan approved by the parish or municipal government and only after the renovation is completed such deduction being canceled, null and void, and to no effect in the event ownership of the property in the future reverts back to the owner or any member of his immediate family; (9) the donation by the state of asphalt which has been removed from state roads and highways to the governing authority of the parish or municipality where the asphalt was removed, or if not needed by such governing authority, then to any other parish or municipal governing authority, but only pursuant to a cooperative endeavor agreement between the state and the governing authority receiving the donated property; (10) the investment in stocks of a portion of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund, created under the provisions of R.S. 56:797, and the Russell Sage or Marsh Island Refuge Fund, created under the

1 provisions of R.S. 56:798, such portion not to exceed thirty-five percent of each 2 fund; (11) the investment in stocks of a portion of the state-funded permanently 3 endowed funds of a public or private college or university, not to exceed thirty-five 4 percent of the public funds endowed; or (12) the investment in equities of a portion 5 of the Medicaid Trust Fund for the Elderly created under the provisions of R.S. 46:2691 et seg., such portion not to exceed thirty-five percent of the fund; or (13) 6 7 the investment of public funds to capitalize a state infrastructure bank. 8 9 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted 10 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 4, 11 2014. 12 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election, 13 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted 14 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as 15 follows: 16 Do you support an amendment to authorize the investment of public funds 17 to capitalize a state infrastructure bank? (Amends Article VII, Section 14(B))

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

St. Germain HB No. 628

Abstract: Authorizes public funds to be invested to capitalize a state infrastructure bank.

<u>Present constitution</u> prohibits the funds, credit, property, or things of value of the state or any of its political subdivisions from being loaned, pledged, or donated to or for any person, association, or corporation, public or private. <u>Present constitution</u> also provides for the following specific exceptions to these restrictions:

- (1) The use of public funds for programs of social welfare for the aid and support of the needy.
- (2) Contributions of public funds to pension and insurance programs for the benefit of public employees.
- (3) The pledge of public funds or things of value for public purposes with respect to debt to meet public obligations.

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- (4) Return of property, including mineral rights, to former owners.
- (5) Acquisition of stock by any institution of higher education in exchange for any intellectual property.
- (6) Donation of abandoned or blighted housing property by a municipality or a parish to a nonprofit organization.
- (7) Deduction of certain taxes for blighted property to be renovated.
- (8) Deduction of past due taxes when the owner sells blighted property at less than the appraised value of the property.
- (9) Donation of asphalt removed from state roads and highways to the parish or municipal governing authority where the asphalt was removed, or if not needed by such governing authority to any other parish or municipal governing authority, but only pursuant to a cooperative agreement.
- (10) Investment in assets of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund and the Russell Sage or Marsh Island Refuge Fund.
- (11) Investment in stocks of a portion of the state-funded permanently endowed funds of a public or private college or university, not to exceed 35% of the public funds endowed.
- (12) Investment in equities of a portion of the Medicaid Trust Fund for the Elderly created pursuant to present law, which portions shall not exceed 35% of the fund.

<u>Proposed constitution</u> retains <u>present constitution</u> and adds an exception for the investment of public funds to capitalize a state infrastructure bank.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 4, 2014.

(Amends Art. 7, §14(B))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure</u> to the <u>engrossed</u> bill.

1. Changed the ballot language to specify that the funds will be used to "capitalize" a state infrastructure bank.