Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 628

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	(B) Authorized Uses. Nothing in this Section shall prevent (1) the use of public funds for programs of social welfare for the aid and support of the needy; (2)
15	public funds for programs of social welfare for the aid and support of the needy; (2)
15 16	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
14 15 16 17 18	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, credit, property, or things of value
15 16 17	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, credit, property, or things of value for public purposes with respect to the issuance of bonds or other evidences of
15 16 17 18	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, credit, property, or things of value for public purposes with respect to the issuance of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness to meet public obligations as provided by law; (4) the return of

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

1 legislature by law declares that the public and necessary purpose which originally 2 supported the expropriation has ceased to exist and orders the return of the property 3 to the former owner under such terms and conditions as specified by the legislature; 4 (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 5 the governing authority of a municipality or a parish to a nonprofit organization 6 7 which is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)8 nonprofit organization and which agrees to renovate and maintain such property until 9 conveyance of the property by such organization; (7) the deduction of any tax, 10 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 11 12 a member of the immediate family of the blighted property owner or which is not 13 any entity in which the owner has a substantial economic interest, but only in 14 connection with a property renovation plan approved by an administrative hearing 15 officer appointed by the parish or municipal government where the property is 16 located; (8) the deduction of past due taxes, interest, and penalties in favor of an 17 owner of a blighted property, but only when the owner sells the property at less than 18 the appraised value to facilitate the blighted property renovation plan approved by 19 the parish or municipal government and only after the renovation is completed such 20 deduction being canceled, null and void, and to no effect in the event ownership of 21 the property in the future reverts back to the owner or any member of his immediate 22 family; (9) the donation by the state of asphalt which has been removed from state 23 roads and highways to the governing authority of the parish or municipality where 24 the asphalt was removed, or if not needed by such governing authority, then to any 25 other parish or municipal governing authority, but only pursuant to a cooperative 26 endeavor agreement between the state and the governing authority receiving the 27 donated property; (10) the investment in stocks of a portion of the Rockefeller 28 Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund, created under the provisions of R.S. 29 56:797, and the Russell Sage or Marsh Island Refuge Fund, created under the

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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; σ (12) the investment in equities of a portion
5	of the Medicaid Trust Fund for the Elderly created under the provisions of R.S.
6	46:2691 et seq., such portion not to exceed thirty-five percent of the fund:; or (13)
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	in 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 in 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.

- (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))