SLS 24RS-302 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 157

BY SENATOR STINE

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WILD REFUGES/PRESERVES. Renames the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund and the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund. (2/3 - C13s1(A)

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article VII, Section 10.16(A)(5) and Section 14(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to funds association with the Rockefeller Foundation Wildlife Refuge Game Preserve; to rename the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund; to rename the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund; 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 amend Article VII, Section 10.16(A)(5) and Section 14(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows: §10.16. Dedications of Mineral Revenues Section 10.16.(A) All mineral revenues as defined in Paragraph (D) of this Section received in each fiscal year by the state as a result of the production of or exploration for minerals, hereinafter referred to as "mineral revenues", shall be allocated as provided in this Section after the following allocations and deposits of mineral revenues have been made:

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(5) To the Rockefeller Grand Chenier Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund as provided by law.

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§14. Donation, Loan, or Pledge of Public Credit

Section 14.(A) * * *

(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) 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 property, including mineral rights, to a former owner from whom the property had previously been expropriated, or purchased under threat of expropriation, when the 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

1 located; (8) the deduction of past due taxes, interest, and penalties in favor of an 2 owner of a blighted property, but only when the owner sells the property at less than 3 the appraised value to facilitate the blighted property renovation plan approved by 4 the parish or municipal government and only after the renovation is completed such 5 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 6 7 family; (9) the donation by the state of asphalt which has been removed from state 8 roads and highways to the governing authority of the parish or municipality where 9 the asphalt was removed, or if not needed by such governing authority, then to any 10 other parish or municipal governing authority, but only pursuant to a cooperative 11 endeavor agreement between the state and the governing authority receiving the 12 donated property; (10) the investment in stocks of a portion of the Rockefeller 13 Grand Chenier Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund, created under the provisions of R.S. 56:797, and the Russell Sage or Marsh Island Refuge Fund, 14 created under the provisions of R.S. 56:798, such portion not to exceed thirty-five 15 16 percent of each fund; (11) the investment in stocks of a portion of the state-funded permanently endowed funds of a public or private college or university, not to 17 exceed thirty-five percent of the public funds endowed; (12) the investment in 18 19 equities of a portion of the Medicaid Trust Fund for the Elderly created under the provisions of R.S. 46:2691 et seq., such portion not to exceed thirty-five percent of 20 21 the fund; (13) the investment of public funds to capitalize a state infrastructure bank and the loan, pledge, or guarantee of public funds by a state infrastructure bank 22 solely for transportation projects; (14) pursuant to a written agreement, the donation 23 of the use of public equipment and personnel by a political subdivision upon request 24 to another political subdivision for an activity or function the requesting political 25 subdivision is authorized to exercise; or (15) a political subdivision from waiving 26 27 charges for water if the charges are the result of water lost due to damage to the water delivery infrastructure and that damage is not the result of any act or failure 28 29 to act by the customer being charged for the water.

1 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to 2 the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 5, 3 2024. 4 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at said election 5 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 6 7 follows: 8 Do you support an amendment to rename the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge 9 and Game Preserve Fund to the Grand Chenier Wildlife Refuge and Game 10 Preserve Fund and the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection 11 Fund to the Grand Chenier Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund? 12 (Amends Article VII, Section 10.16(A)(5) and Section 14(B))

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tyler S. McCloud.

DIGEST 2024 Regular Session

Stine

SB 157 Original

<u>Present Constitution</u> provides for the allocation of certain mineral revenues to the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Game Preserve Fund and the investment of funds in the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> renames the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund to the Grand Chenier Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund and the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund to the Grand Chenier Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 5, 2024.

(Amends Const. Art. VII, Sec. 10.16(A)(5) and Sec. 14(B))