

**ACT No. 873**

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 628

BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. GERMAIN AND SENATOR THOMPSON

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article VII, Section 14(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to public funds; to authorize public funds to be used to invest in a state infrastructure bank; to authorize the loan, pledge, guarantee, or donation of public funds by a state infrastructure bank for eligible transportation projects; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; 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 of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article VII, Section 14(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

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

Section 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) 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;

1 (5) acquisition of stock by any institution of higher education in exchange for any  
 2 intellectual property; (6) the donation of abandoned or blighted housing property by  
 3 the governing authority of a municipality or a parish to a nonprofit organization  
 4 which is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)  
 5 nonprofit organization and which agrees to renovate and maintain such property until  
 6 conveyance of the property by such organization; (7) the deduction of any tax,  
 7 interest, penalty, or other charges forming the basis of tax liens on blighted property  
 8 so that they may be subordinated and waived in favor of any purchaser who is not  
 9 a member of the immediate family of the blighted property owner or which is not  
 10 any entity in which the owner has a substantial economic interest, but only in  
 11 connection with a property renovation plan approved by an administrative hearing  
 12 officer appointed by the parish or municipal government where the property is  
 13 located; (8) the deduction of past due taxes, interest, and penalties in favor of an  
 14 owner of a blighted property, but only when the owner sells the property at less than  
 15 the appraised value to facilitate the blighted property renovation plan approved by  
 16 the parish or municipal government and only after the renovation is completed such  
 17 deduction being canceled, null and void, and to no effect in the event ownership of  
 18 the property in the future reverts back to the owner or any member of his immediate  
 19 family; (9) the donation by the state of asphalt which has been removed from state  
 20 roads and highways to the governing authority of the parish or municipality where  
 21 the asphalt was removed, or if not needed by such governing authority, then to any  
 22 other parish or municipal governing authority, but only pursuant to a cooperative  
 23 endeavor agreement between the state and the governing authority receiving the  
 24 donated property; (10) the investment in stocks of a portion of the Rockefeller  
 25 Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund, created under the provisions of R.S.  
 26 56:797, and the Russell Sage or Marsh Island Refuge Fund, created under the  
 27 provisions of R.S. 56:798, such portion not to exceed thirty-five percent of each  
 28 fund; (11) the investment in stocks of a portion of the state-funded permanently  
 29 endowed funds of a public or private college or university, not to exceed thirty-five  
 30 percent of the public funds endowed; ~~or~~ (12) the investment in equities of a portion

1 of the Medicaid Trust Fund for the Elderly created under the provisions of R.S.  
 2 46:2691 et seq., such portion not to exceed thirty-five percent of the fund; or (13)  
 3 the investment of public funds to capitalize a state infrastructure bank and the loan,  
 4 pledge, guarantee, or donation of public funds by a state infrastructure bank for  
 5 eligible transportation projects.

\* \* \*

7 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted  
 8 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 4,  
 9 2014.

10 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,  
 11 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted  
 12 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as  
 13 follows:

14 Do you support an amendment to authorize the investment of public funds  
 15 to capitalize a state infrastructure bank and the loan, pledge, guarantee, or  
 16 donation of public funds by a state infrastructure bank for eligible  
 17 transportation projects? (Amends Article VII, Section 14(B))

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE