HLS 21RS-489 **ORIGINAL**

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 154

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BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

FUNDS/INVESTMENTS: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides relative to the maximum amount of monies in certain funds that may be invested in stocks

A JOINT RESOLUTION

2	Proposing to amend Article VII, Sections 10.1(B), 10.8(B), 10.10(B), and 14(B) of the
3	Constitution of Louisiana, to modify the maximum amount of monies in certain state
4	funds that may be invested in equities; to provide for submission of the proposed
5	amendment to the electors; and to 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, Sections 10.1(B), 10.8(B), 10.10(B), and 14(B) of the Constitution of
10	Louisiana, to read as follows:
11	§10.1. Quality Trust Fund; Education
12	* * *
13	(B) Investment. The money credited to the Permanent Trust Fund pursuant
14	to Paragraph (A) of this Section shall be permanently credited to the Permanent Trust
15	Fund and shall be invested by the treasurer. Notwithstanding any provision of this
16	constitution or other law to the contrary, a portion of money in the Permanent Trust
17	Fund, not to exceed thirty-five sixty-five percent, may be invested in stock. The
18	legislature shall provide for procedures for the investment of such monies by law.

Page 1 of 6

The treasurer shall contract, subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission,

for the management of such investments. The amounts in the Support Fund shall be

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1	available for appropriation to pay expenses incurred in the investment and
2	management of the Permanent Trust Fund and for educational purposes only as
3	provided in Paragraphs (C) and (D) of this Section.
4	* * *
5	§10.8. Millennium Trust
6	* * *
7	(B) Investment. Monies credited to the Millennium Trust pursuant to
8	Paragraph (A) of this Section shall be invested by the treasurer with the same
9	authority and subject to the same restrictions as the Louisiana Education Quality
10	Trust Fund. However, the portion of monies in the Millennium Trust which may be
11	invested in stock may be increased to no more than fifty percent by a specific
12	legislative instrument which receives a favorable vote of two-thirds of the elected
13	members of each house of the legislature. The legislature shall provide for
14	procedures for the investment of such monies by law. The treasurer may contract,
15	subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, for the management of such
16	investments and, if a contract is entered into, amounts necessary to pay the costs of
17	the contract shall be appropriated from the Millennium Trust.
18	* * *
19	§10.10. Millennium Leverage Fund
20	* * *
21	(B) Investment. Monies deposited in the Leverage Fund shall be invested
22	and administered by the treasurer. Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution
23	to the contrary, a portion of the monies in the Leverage Fund, not to exceed fifty
24	sixty-five percent, may be invested in stock. The legislature shall provide for the
25	procedure for the investment of such monies by law. The treasurer shall contract,
26	subject to approval of the State Bond Commission, for the management of such
27	investments. The monies in the Leverage Fund shall be available for appropriation
28	to pay expenses incurred in the investment and management of monies in the fund.

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

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(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 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

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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 provisions of R.S. 56:798, such portion not to exceed thirty-five sixty-five 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 exceed thirty-five percent of the public funds endowed; (12) the investment in 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 sixty-five percent of 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 solely for transportation projects; or (14) pursuant to a written agreement, the donation of the use of public equipment and personnel by a political subdivision upon request to another political subdivision for an activity or function the requesting political subdivision is authorized to exercise.

23 * * *

Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 8, 2022.

Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the 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 increase to 65% the cap on the amount of monies in certain state funds that may be invested in stocks? (Amends Article

VII, Sections 10.1(B), 10.8(B), 10.10(B), and 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)]

HB 154 Original

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2021 Regular Session

Zeringue

Abstract: Increases to 65% the maximum amount of monies in certain state funds that may be invested in equities.

<u>Present constitution</u> (Article VII, Section 10.1) creates the La. Education Quality Trust Fund and provides for funding thereof and use of monies in the fund. Provides that monies credited to the La. Education Quality Trust Fund pursuant to <u>present constitution</u> shall be invested by the treasurer.

<u>Present constitution</u> authorizes the treasurer to invest a maximum of 35% of monies in the La. Education Quality Trust Fund in equities.

<u>Present constitution</u> (Article VII, Section 10.8) creates the Millennium Trust and provides for funding thereof and use of the monies in the Trust. Further, ties the treasurer's investment authority for monies in the Millennium Trust to the authority granted for the La. Education Quality Trust Fund.

<u>Proposed constitution</u> increases the maximum amount of La. Education Quality Trust Fund monies that may be invested in equities <u>from</u> 35% <u>to</u> 65%. Otherwise retains <u>present</u> constitution.

<u>Present constitution</u> authorizes the legislature to increase to 50% the maximum amount of monies in the Millennium Trust that may be invested in equities through passage of a specific legislative instrument that receives the favorable vote of two-thirds of the members of each house. Proposed constitution repeals this provision.

<u>Present constitution</u> (Article VII, Section 10.10) creates the Millennium Leverage Fund and provides for funding thereof and use of the monies in the Fund. Further provides that monies credited to the Fund be invested by the treasurer.

<u>Present constitution</u> authorizes the treasurer to invest a maximum of 50% of monies in the Fund in equities. <u>Proposed constitution</u> increases this maximum <u>from</u> 50% <u>to</u> 65%. Otherwise retains <u>present constitution</u>.

<u>Present constitution</u> (Article VII, Section 14) generally prohibits the funds, credit, property, or things of value of the state or its political subdivisions from being loaned, pledged, or donated. Further provides exceptions to this general rule.

One such exception (Article VII, Section 14(B)(10)) prohibits more than 35% of the monies in the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund (R.S. 56:797) and the Russell

Page 5 of 6

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Sage or Marsh Island Refuge Fund (R.S. 56:798) from being invested in equities. <u>Proposed constitution</u> increases this cap <u>from</u> 35% <u>to</u> 65%. Another exception (Article VII, Section 14(B)(12)) prohibits more than 35% of the monies in the Medicaid Trust Fund for the Elderly (R.S. 46:2691 et seq.) from being invested in equities. <u>Proposed constitution</u> increases this cap <u>from</u> 35% <u>to</u> 65%. Otherwise retains <u>present constitution</u>.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 8, 2022.

(Amends Article VII, §§10.1(B), 10.8(B), 10.10(B), and 14(B))