Providing for an Issue of Bonds by the State for the Purpose of Construction of Highways.

II. J. R. No. 13.] House Joint Resolution.

A Joint Resolution proposing to amend Section 49, Article 3 of the Constitution of the State of Texas relating to the power to create debts by or on behalf of the State so as hereafter to authorize the Legislature to enact such laws as may be necessary directing the Governor of the State to issue bonds in a sum not to exceed $75,000,000; providing for the levy of a tax to create the necessary interest and sinking fund therefor; and providing that the proceeds from the sale of such bonds shall be used in the construction of durable hard surfaced roads upon the public highways of the State.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

Section 1. Amend said Section so as to read after its adoption as follows:

Article 3. Section 49. No debt shall be created by or on behalf of the State, except to supply casual deficiencies of revenue, repel invasion, suppress insurrection, defend the State in war, or pay existing debt; and the debt created to supply deficiencies in the revenue shall never exceed in the aggregate at any one time, two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000); provided, however, that the Legislature may enact such legislation as may be necessary to authorize and direct the Governor to issue bonds of the State in a sum not to exceed Seventy-five million ($75,000,000) dollars, the proceeds to be used in the construction of durable, hard surfaced roads upon the public highways of the State; provided that such proceeds shall be apportioned to the different counties of the State according to the needs of the State Highways in such counties; and, provided further that under Legislative authority a tax not to exceed twenty cents on the one hundred dollars valuation of taxable property in the State may be levied, assessed and collected to provide the necessary interest and sinking fund therefor, and said taxes shall be in addition to the taxes authorized by Article 8, Section 9 of the Constitution.

Sec. 2. The foregoing constitutional amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors for members of the Legislature at an election to be held throughout the State of Texas on the first Tues-
day in November the same being the fourth day of November, A. D. 1919, and the Governor of this State is hereby directed to issue the necessary proclamation for said election and to have the same published as required by the Constitution and laws of this State. Those favoring the amendment shall have written or printed on their ballots the words "For amendment to Section 49, Article 3 of the Constitution proposing to amend Section 49, of Article 3 relating to the power to create debts by or on behalf of the State, so as hereafter to authorize the Legislature to enact a law directing the issuance of bonds by the Governor of the State in a sum not to exceed Seventy-five Million ($75,000,000) dollars, the proceeds of said bonds to be used in the construction of durable, hard surfaced roads upon public highways of the State; and providing for the levy of a tax, not to exceed 20 cents on the one Hundred Dollars valuation, on taxable property in the State." Those opposing the amendment shall have written or printed on their ballots the words "Against the amendment to Section 49, Article 3 of the Constitution proposing to amend Section 49 of Article 3 relating to the power to create debts by or on behalf of the State, so as hereafter to authorize the Legislature to enact a law directing the issuance of bonds by the Governor of the State in a sum not to exceed Seventy-five Million ($75,000,000) dollars, the proceeds of said bonds to be used in the construction of durable, hard surfaced roads upon public highways of the State; and providing for the levy of a tax, not to exceed 20 cents on the One Hundred Dollars valuation, on taxable property in the State."

SEC. 3. The sum of Five thousand dollars ($5,000) or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the State treasury not otherwise appropriated to defray the expenses of such proclamation, publication and election.

SEC. 4. The fact that the Legislature is restricted by the provisions of Section 49, Article 3 of the State Constitution from enacting needed Highway Legislation creates an emergency and an imperative public necessity exists, demanding the suspension of the rule requiring bills to be read upon three several days, and such rule is hereby suspended.

[Note.—H. J. R. No. 13 passed the House of Representatives by a ▽ vote, yeas 108, nays 19; and passed the Senate by a ▽ vote, yeas 25, nays 2.]

Approved March 13, 1919.