PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

TO THE

CONSTITUTION OF LOUISIANA

Adopted at the Session of the Legislature of 1916.

To Be Voted On at the Congressional Election.

Act No. 4

House Bill No. 4. By Mr. Byrne.

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana providing for: The funding of certain debts of the City of New Orleans and of the Board of Directors of the Public Schools, Parish of Orleans, respectively the issuance of serial bonds by said city, the purpose for and the manner in which same may be issued and the duties and functions of the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, with reference thereto; and the levying by the City of New Orleans and the Board of School Directors, Parish of Orleans, respectively, of certain taxes for general municipal and school purposes; and providing for the submission of said amendment to the electors of the State for their approval or rejection.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, two-thirds of all the members elected to each house concurring, that subject to the ratification and approval of the electors of the State, the Constitution of the State be amended by incorporating therein the following provisions, to-wit:

Section 1. The City of New Orleans, by a vote of three-fourths of all the members of the Board of Liquidation City Debt, approved by resolution of the Commission Council, or its successor as the governing body of said municipality, adopted by a vote of two-thirds of all the members of said council or governing body, shall have power and is hereby authorized to issue Nine Million Dollars ($9,000,000) of bonds, to be styled "City of New Orleans Serial Gold Bonds," and to bear such rate of interest as the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, may fix from time to time as each installment of said bonds is offered for sale as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. Three Million Dollars ($3,000,000), in par value, of the bonds authorized by Section 1 of this amendment shall forthwith be sold.

The proceeds of said three million dollars of bonds shall be applied exclusively to the following purposes and in the following order:

(a) The payment of the outstanding and unpaid "School Teachers' Salary Bonds of the City of New Orleans," issued under Act No 2 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1906, which bonds shall be called for payment and paid as soon as practicable;

(b) The payment of the principal of the floating indebtedness of the Board of Directors of the Public Schools, Parish of Orleans, evidenced by note or notes outstanding at the time of the adoption of this amendment to an amount not exceeding Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars ($650,000); provided that in the event that said indebtedness or any part thereof shall have been paid by said Board out of its current revenues previous to the adoption of this amendment, the amount thus paid (not to exceed $650,000, however), shall be paid over in cash to said Board to be used by it for school purposes, as provided by law;

(c) The payment of the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($500,000), with interest thereon, borrowed by the City of New Orleans for storm emergency purposes in the year 1915;

(d) The payment of the overdraft or other indebtedness due by the City of New Orleans to its fiscal agents or other banks representing loans or advances made by them to said city, other than those referred to in paragraph (c) of this section, to an amount not exceeding in principal and interest the sum of One Million Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars ($1,350,000); and

(e) The balance of said proceeds shall be used and employed by the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, for the payment of Public Improvement Certificates of the City of New Orleans, as set forth in Section 3 of this amendment.

Section 3. The remainder of the bonds authorized by Section 1 of this amendment, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be sold, from time to time, in such amounts as the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, may determine, and the proceeds of the sale thereof shall be applied by said Board to the payment of Public Improvement Certificates authorized by Act No. 56 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1908, and acts amendatory thereof, and presently outstanding or issued at any time in payment of any contract made before this amendment takes effect, at their respective maturities or when said maturities can be anticipated upon terms satisfactory to said Board.

Said Act No. 56 of 1908 and all amendments thereof, as well as all statutes upon the same subject, and so much of Acts No. 128 and No. 270 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1910, and other statutes on the same subject matter, as may affect, apply or pertain to the City of New Orleans, be and the same are hereby repealed; nevertheless Public Improvement Certificates may be issued in the manner provided by said Act No. 56 of 1908, and amendments thereof, in payment of any contract made before this amendment takes effect.

Section 4. The City of New Orleans may also issue and negotiate its bonds when authorized by a vote of a majority in number and amount of the property taxpayers, who shall have been assessed for property in said city as shown by the last assessment made prior to the submission of the proposition to the said property taxpayers and who are otherwise qualified to vote under the Constitution and laws of this State, voting at an election called by ordinance adopted by a vote of two-thirds of all the members of the Commission Council, or its successor as the governing body of said City of New Orleans, and which ordinance before any such election is ordered shall be also adopted by a vote of three-fourths of all the members of the Board of Liquidation, City Debt. Due notice of said election shall be published for thirty days in the official journal of said city (four weekly insertions of said notice constituting a publication for thirty days, provided thirty days intervene between the date of the first insertion and the date of said election).

No bonds shall be issued under this section for any other purpose or for any greater amount than that stated in the submission of the proposition to said taxpayers.

Section 5. In case of fire, flood, pestilence, storm or other public calamity, the City of New Orleans shall have power, by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Commission Council, or its successor as the governing body of said city, concurred in by a three-fourths vote of all the members of the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, to borrow money and issue and negotiate bonds in such sum, not exceeding Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($500,000), as shall be necessary in any one such emergency.

Section 6. For the purpose of refunding all or any part of the bonded indebtedness of the City of New Orleans existing at the time of the adoption of this amendment, bonds may from time to time be issued and negotiated. When any of the issues of the bonds of said city outstanding at the time of the adoption of this amendment shall become callable according to their terms or the statutes under which they are respectively issued, or when the consent of all the holders of any such issue of bonds can be secured, the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, shall have the right in its discretion to call and pay any one or more of said issues of bonds, and shall be authorized by resolution duly adopted to issue and negotiate bonds to provide the funds necessary for that purpose; provided, however, that in no event shall the par value of the bonds so sold and negotiated exceed the par value of the bonded indebtedness thereby to be refunded.

Section 7. The full faith and credit of the City of New Orleans are pledged for the payment of the principal and interest of all bonds issued under this amendment.

The principal and interest of all bonds authorized by and to be issued under this amendment shall be paid primarily out of (1) that one-half of the surplus of the one per cent debt tax which heretofore has been dedicated for the support and maintenance of the public schools of said city, as levied under and authorized by Act No. 110 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1890, and subsequently made part of the Constitution of this State, and (2), after January 1, 1928, that portion of the one per cent debt tax, authorized and levied under Act No. 110 aforesaid, and the two-mill tax authorized by and levied under Act No. 6 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1899 which shall have been released and freed from dedication either by the calling and refunding or the payment in due course of all or any part of the bonds existing at the time of the adoption of this amendment; provided that, if the funds derived from the sources aforesaid shall be insufficient in any one year to pay the principal and interest of the bonds issued under this amendment and then outstanding and unpaid, or if for any cause there shall not be funds appropriated to or available for such purpose, the City of New Orleans shall levy a tax upon all taxable property in said city sufficient to provide for any such deficiency; and provided further that, when the aforesaid one per cent debt tax and two mill water and sewer tax shall cease to be levied, the City of New Orleans shall levy a tax upon all taxable property in said city sufficient to pay the principal and interest of said bonds as they respectively become due.

Section 8. It is hereby intended that all existing dedication and appropriations of said one per cent debt tax authorized by said Act No 110 of 1890 (except with respect to the said one-half of the surplus of the one per cent debt tax therein dedicated to public schools), and of said two-mill water and sewer tax, authorized by said Act No. 6 of 1899, shall be respected and performed according to the priorities by said statutes established; that all of that portion of the funds resulting from the levy of said taxes which shall be released from said appropriations and dedications by the payment, satisfaction or refunding of any of the bonded debt obligations now charged thereon and there-against shall, together with the one-half of the surplus of the one per cent debt tax heretofore dedicated to public school purposes, be used and applied to the payment of the principal and interest of all bonds issued under this amendment; that any residue thereof remaining after the payment of the principal and interest in any one year of bonds authorized by this amendment shall be turned over to the city of New Orleans, to be used by it for general municipal purposes; but when, and to the extent that, the obligations now charged on said taxes shall be paid, satisfied or refunded, said taxes shall be released from said obligations, and, ultimately, when entirely released and discharged, shall cease to be levied; and, that, thereafter, any and all bonds issued under this amendment shall be provided for by a tax upon all taxable property in the City of New Orleans sufficient to pay the principal and interest of said bonds as they respectively become due; provided, however, that, in the event the funds hereinabove specially dedicated for the payment of the principal and interest of the bonds issued under this amendment should prove insufficient, the City of New Orleans shall, and it is hereby required to, levy in every such instance a tax upon all taxable property in the City of New Orleans necessary to pay the principal and interest of said bonds.

Section 9. The principal and interest of all bonds authorized by this amendment shall be payable in gold coin of the United States of America, or its equivalent, of the standard of weight and fineness at the time of the issuance of each installment of said bonds.

Said bonds shall be exempt from all taxation for State, parish, municipal or other local purposes.

Savings banks, tutors of minors, curators of interdicts, trustees and other fiduciaries may invest the funds in their hand in said bonds.

Said bonds may be used for deposit with any officer, board, municipality, or other political subdivision of the State of Louisiana in any case where by present or future laws deposit or security is required.

Said bonds may be registered and released from registry under such rules as the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, may prescribe.

Section 10. All bonds issued under this amendment shall bear such rate of interest or, from time to time, different rates of interest, and shall, except as herein otherwise specially provided, be in such form, terms and denominations, and payable at such times and places, within a period of not exceeding fifty years from the date thereof, as the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, shall determine. Said bonds shall be issued in serial form and shall be payable in annual installments, commencing not more than two years from their respective dates, and the installment payable in each year shall be so fixed that, when the annual interest is added thereto, the several annual total amounts of principal and interest to be paid shall be as nearly equal as practicable; provided, said installments may be fixed at five thousand dollars or the nearest multiple thereof.

Said bonds shall be signed by the Mayor and the Commissioner of Public Finance of the City of New Orleans, or officers exercising similar functions, and countersigned by the President or Vice President and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, and the coupons attached to said bonds shall bear the fac-simile signatures of said Commissioner of Public Finance and said Secretary or Assistant Secretary. In case any such officer whose signature or counter-signature appears upon such a bond or coupon shall cease to be such officer before delivery of said bond or coupon to the purchaser, such signature or counter-signature shall nevertheless be valid for all purposes. The cost and expense of preparing and selling said bonds shall be paid for by the Board of Liquidation, City Debt.

Section 11. All bonds issued under this amendment shall be sold by the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, to the highest bidder or bidders by sealed proposals after due advertisement of not less than five insertions in the official journal of the City of New Orleans (the first insertion to be at least fifteen days prior to the date of the sale), and such other advertisement, in said city or elsewhere, as said Board of Liquidation may in its discretion direct; provided, said Board of Liquidation may reject any and all bids.

Section 12. Except as otherwise provided in this amendment, the City of New Orleans shall not borrow money, issue bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness or pledge its credit or anticipate the collection of any of its taxes.

No money shall be drawn from the treasury of said city without specific appropriation therefor previously made, nor shall said city make any contract or incur any debt or obligation for any purpose whatsoever unless sufficient funds, not otherwise appropriated, to pay and discharge same are actually in the treasury of said city at the time of making the contract or incurring the debt or obligation and are specifically set aside and dedicated to said purpose, unless herein otherwise provided. The foregoing limitation and restriction shall not apply or be held to apply to contracts or obligation incurred with respect to the furnishing to said city or light, heat or power, water, telephone service or garbage removal or destruction.

The said city may in any calendar year in anticipation of the collection of the taxes of such calendar year, and for the purposes for which such taxes are levied, borrow such sums as shall not be in excess of the amount of its uncollected taxes of such year, and may issue its notes or other evidences of indebtedness therefor, and such sum, notes or other evidences of indebtedness shall be payable only out of the taxes of the calendar year in which said loan or loans are first made, and for which indebtedness said revenues shall be pledged, and said indebtedness shall not be payable out of any other funds or moneys whatsoever. No money shall be borrowed by the said city except for current municipal purposes, and in no event shall any money be borrowed by said city to make or to pay for works of public improvement. Said city may issue for street paving purposes certificates on its faith and credit pursuant to legislative authority, to an amount not in excess of any special assessments which have been or shall be made for such purposes. Such paving certificates hereafter issued shall be chargeable primarily against the special assessments in respect of which they are issued, and secondarily against the revenues of the City of New Orleans derived from taxation for general municipal purposes and from sources other than the taxes for the payment of the principal and interest of the bonds now outstanding or hereafter to be issued under this paving certificates only in the event and to the extent that such amendment, which revnues shall be applied in payment of such special assessments shall be insufficient for such payment, and reimbursement shall be made to the general funds of the City of New Orleans when the assessments are collected to the extent of the amount that the said general funds shall have contributed to the payment aforesaid. So much of Act No. 23 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1914 as may be inconsistent herewith is hereby repealed, and hereafter no paving certificates shall be issued upon the pledge of the reserve fund of the City of New Orleans, but such certificates shall be secured as herein and otherwise provided for by said act or subsequent legislative authority not in conflict herewith; provided, however, that paving certificates, for which the faith and credit of the City of New Orleans shall be pledged, whether issued under the aforesaid Act No. 23 of 1914, or under subsequent legislation, shall not at any one time be outstanding in an amount in excess of Five Million Dollars ($5,000,000) in face value.

Section 13. The total issue of bonds by the City of New Orleans for all purposes shall never exceed ten per centum of the assessed valuation of the property in said city provided, however, that neither the bonds issued for water, sewerage and drainage purposes (namely, the $12,000,000 Public Improvement Bonds issued under said Act No. 6 of 1899 and the $8,000,000 New Public Improvement Bonds issued under Act No. 19 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1906, and acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, as well as such bonds, hereby or hereafter authorized, into which the aforesaid bonus or any par therof may be refunded), nor the $2,000,000 Public Belt Railroad Bonds authorized by Act No. 179 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1908, nor any bonds hereafter authorized for Public Belt Railroad purposes, nor any bonds which may hereafter be issued for water supply or for the acquisition or construction of any revenue producing public utility, nor any bonds or certificates primarily chargeable against special assessments for street paving, shall be included in computing the indebtedness of said City of New Orleans under this limitation; and provided further, that emergency bonds may be issued as authorized in Section 5 of this amendment even though said limitation shall have been reached provided that the Nine Million Dollars of bonds authorized by Section 1 of this amendment shall not be subject to the limitation herein fixed at the time or times that same shall be issued; but, with respect to any other bonds that may be issued hereafter under this amendment there shall be included in the computation said Nine Million Dollars of bonds, notwithstanding the fact that all of said Nine Million Dollars of bonds shall not have been actually issued, and such amount of emergency bonds as may be then outstanding.

Section 14. The Board of Liquidation, City Debt, as now organized and created with the powers, duties and functions prescribed by existing laws and by this amendment, shall be continued while any bonds authorized by this amendment are outstanding and unpaid; and all taxes which may be levied for the payment of said bonds shall, day by day as collected, be paid over to said Board, and shall by it be applied in payment of the principal and interest of said bonds; and said board shall with respect to all bonds authorized by this amendment be entitled to exercise all the rights and enforce the performance of all the obligations, the same as it is authorized to do under laws existing at the time of the adoption of this amendment with respect to any of the presently outstanding bonds of said City of New Orleans. All funds, property and things of value held by the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, for bonded debt purposes other than taxes now or hereafter levied, and particularly all funds, property and things of value now or hereafter held by said Board under Act No. 133 of the General assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1880 and all amendments thereto, shall when released from contract obligations or dedications imposed by laws existing at the time of the adoption of this amendment be used and employed in the discreation of said Board in payment and retirement of any bonds of the City of New Orleans then outstanding.

Section 15. For general municipal purposes, exclusive of the support and maintenance of the public schools and the payment of the bonded debt of the City of New Orleans, said city may in each year levy upon all taxable property within said city a tax not exceeding six and one-half mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation thereof; provided, however, that when the one per cent debt tax authorized by said Act No. 110 of 1890 and the two mill water and sewer tax authorized by said Act No. 6 of 1899 shall both have ceased to be levied, and if thereafter the taxes levied by the City of New Orleans in any one year for bonded debt purposes be less than ten mills, said city may in such events levy for its general purposes such additional tax which, when added to the tax of six and one-half mills hereby authorized and the taxes levied for the payment of the principal and interest of its bonds as they severally mature, shall not exceed in the aggregate sixteen and one-half mills.

Section 16. The reservation of twenty per cent of the revenues of the City of New Orleans shall not hereafter be made as directed by Section 40 of the Act No. 159 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1912, except insofar as the fund so directed to be reserved shall have been appropriated or dedicated before this amendment takes effect to the payment of any obligation of the City of New Orleans, and said reserve fund of each year, when released from the obligations charged against it by law and because of contracts, existing at the time of the adoption of this amendment, shall be used for general municipal purposes.

Section 17. For the support, maintenance, construction and repair of the public Schools in the City of New Orleans, the Board of Directors of the Public Schools, Parish of Orleans, or its legal successor, shall levy annually such tax, not exceeding three and one-half mills, as said Board shall deem necessary, which levy shall be certified by said Board to the Commission Council or other future governing body of the City of New Orleans, which shall cause the tax to be entered upon the tax rolls of said city according to law against all taxable property in said city as assessed and valued for city taxation purposes, and said tax shall be collected by said city and paid over to said Board of Directors of the Public Schools, Parish of Orleans, day by day as collected.

Said tax shall be in lieu of all taxes, appropriations and funds now authorized or directed to be levied or contributed by the City of New Orleans for public school purposes, either by said Act No. 110 of 1890 or other provisions of the Constitution of this State. All constitutional provisions to the contrary, as well as Act No. 262 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1914, ratified as an amendment to the Constitution of this State, are hereby abrogated and repealed; and the City of New Orleans shall have no power or authority to use or employ any of its taxes or funds for the establishment, support or maintenance of the public schools, directly or indirectly, except as herein authorized, provided, however, that the City of New Orleans shall administer, use and employ all the funds, property or things of value now or hereafter held by it under any special legacy, bequest or donation made or to be made directly to it for school purposes, and shall carry out and execute the conditions of all such special legacies, bequests or donations that have been heretofore made to and accepted by said City of New Orleans and all such as may hereafter be made to and accepted by said city.

Section 18. For the purpose of giving additional support to the Public schools, the Board of Directors of the Public Schools, Parish of Orleans, or its legal successor, may levy upon all taxable property in the city of New Orleans a special tax not exceeding two mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation of said property (which special tax shall be in excess of the tax authorized by Section 17 of this amendment), whenever (1) in the manner prescribed by Act No. 256 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1910, and amendments thereof, or in such other manner as shall be prescribed by law, the rate of such special tax, the number of years it is to be levied and the purpose for which the tax is intended shall have been by said Board submitted at an election to a vote of the property taxpayers of the City of New Orleans entitled to vote under the laws of this State, who shall have been assessed for property in said city as shown by the last assessment made prior to the submission of the proposition to the said property taxpayers, and (2) a majority of the same in number and amount voting at said election shall have voted therefor. The levy by said Board of any tax so authorized shall be certified, assessed, collected and paid in the manner prescribed by Section 17 of this amendment.

Section 19. The Board of Directors of the Public Schools Parish of Orleans, or its legal successor, shall not capitalize the whole or any part of the taxes which by this amendment it is authorized to levy, nor fund the same into bonds, nor borrow money in anticipation of the collection thereof; provided that said Board may, in any calendar year, in anticipation of the collection of the taxes of such calendar year and for the purpose for which such taxes are levied, borrow such sums as shall not be in excess of the amount of its uncollected taxes of such year, and may issue its notes or other evidences of indebtedness therefor, and such sums, notes or other evidences of indebtedness shall be payable only out of the taxes of the calendar year in which said loan or loans are first made and for which indebtedness shall not be payable out of any other funds or moneys whatever; provided, however, no moneys shall be borrowed by said Board for any other purposes than current purposes, and in no event shall any money be borrowed by said Board to make or to pay for permanent improvements; and provided further, that said Board shall not make any contract or incur any debt or obligation unless sufficient funds not otherwise appropriated, to pay and discharge the same are actually in the treasurey of said Board at the time of making said contract or incurring said debt or obligation and are specially set aside and dedicated to said purpose, except as may be hereinabove specially provided.

Said Board shall annually and prior to the beginning of the scholastic year prepare a budget of its receipts and expenditures and said budget, before it becomes effective, must be approved by the Commission Council of the City of New Orleans, or its successor as the governing body of said City, and all appropriations by or expenditures of said Board not included in the said budget shall likewise before becoming effective be approved by said Commission Council or its said successor;

Provided that nothing herein shall be taken or construed as authorizing the Commission Council or its successor to change, alter, substitute or eliminate any of the items of the budget thus submitted; the true intent and meaning hereof being that the said council or its successors shall have no authority whatsoever in or over said budget, except to the extent of ascertaining whether the proposed expenditures as exhibited by said budget are within the probable and estimated revenues of said Board of Directors of the Public Schools, Parish of Orleans.

Section 20. The inhibition herein established against the City of New Orleans and the Board of Directors of the Public Schools, Parish of Orleans, or either of them, borrowing money, anticipating their revenues, capitalizing their funds or issuing notes of other evidences of debt, shall apply to all boards, commissions or bodies created by or under the authority of the Common Council of the City of New Orleans, or its successor as the governing body of said city.

Section 21. The provisions hereof are self-operative, and the City of New Orleans and the several boards and bodies herein referred to shall carry the same into effect.

Be it further enacted, etc., that the amendment proposed by this act shall be submitted to the electors of the State for their approval or rejection at the Congressional election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in the month of November, 1916; that there shall be printed on the official ballots to be used at said election the words:

"For the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana providing for the funding of certain debts of the City of New Orleans and of the Board of Directors of the Public Schools, Parish of Orleans," and the words:

"Against the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana providing for the funding of certain debts of the City of New Orleans and of the Board of Directors of the Public Schools, Parish of Orleans;" and that each elector shall indicate on the ballot cast by him, as provided by the general election laws of the State, whether he votes for or against the proposed amendment.

HEWITT BOUANCHAUD,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

FERNAND MOUTON,
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.

Approved: June 8, 1916.

R. G. PLEASANT,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.

A true copy:
JAMES J. BAILEY,
Secretary of State.

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Act No. 13

House Bill No. 5. By Mr. Heintz.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to Article 118 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana on the subject of Juvenile Courts.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, two-thirds of all the members elected to each House concurring, that the fifth section of Article 118 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Section 2. Be it further resolved, etc., that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the State for adoption or rejection at the Congressional election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 1916.

Section 3. Be it further resolved, etc., that on the official ballots to be used at said election there shall be placed the words: "For the proposed amendment to Article 118 of the Constitution of Louisiana," and the words, "Against the proposed amendment to Article 118 of the Constitution of Louisiana," and each elector shall indicate as provided in the general election laws of this State, for which of the propositions he votes.

HEWITT BOUANCHAUD,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ETHELRED M. STAFFORD,
President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

Approved: June 16, 1916.

R. G. PLEASANT,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.

A true copy:
JAMES J. BAILEY,
Secretary of State.

Act No. 28

Senate Bill No. 77. By Mr. Leon R. Smith.

AN ACT

Proposing an amendment to Article 270 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana, relative to the voting and levying of special taxes in aid of public improvements.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, two-thirds of all members elected to each House concurring, That Article 270 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana be amended so as to read as follows:

Article 270. The General Assembly shall have power to enact general laws authorizing the parochial, ward and municipal authorities of the State, by a vote of a majority of the property tax payers, in number entitled to vote under the provisions of this Constitution, and in value, to levy special taxes in aid of public improvements, railway enterprises, river transportation lines, such as steamboat and barge lines, and navigation canals; provided, that such a tax shall not exceed the rate of five mills per annum nor extend for a longer period than ten years; and provided, further, that no taxpayer shall be permitted to vote at such election unless he shall have been assessed for property, the year previous, in the parish, ward or municipality to be affected.

Section 2. Be it further resolved, etc., That the foregoing amendment to the Constitution of the State of Louiana be submitted to the electors of the State at the next election for Representatives in Congress, to be holden on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1916, and on the official ballots to be used at said election shall be placed the words: "For the proposed amendment to Article 270 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana," and the words, "Against the proposed amendment to Article 270 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana," and each elector shall indicate, as provided in the general election laws of the State, for which of the propositions, "for" or "against," he votes for.

FERNAND MOUTON,
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.

HEWITT BOUANCHAUD,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Approved: June 23, 1916.

R. G. PLEASANT,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.

A true copy:
JAMES J. BAILEY,
Secretary of State.

Act No. 68

By Mr. Kantz, Chairman, Committee on City Affairs. Substitute for House Bill No. 178, by Mr. Barrett.

A JOINT RESOLUTION.

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana, granting to the City of New Orleans power to construct, equip, maintain and operate, through and by the Public Belt Railroad Commission of the City of New Orleans, bridges and tunnels across the Mississippi River at or near New Orleans, and to do various acts incidental thereto and to the operation generally of the Public Belt Railroad system of the City of New Orleans, and providing for the submission of said amendment to the electors of the State for their approval or rejection.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, two-thirds of all the members elected to each House concurring, that subject to the ratification and approval of the electors of the State, the Constitution of the State be amended by incorporating therein the following provisions, to-wit:

(1) The City of New Orleans is hereby granted plenary and exclusive power, by such means and methods as it may deem meet and proper not in conflict with the provisions of this amendment:

(a) To construct, equip, maintain and operate across the Mississippi River, at or near New Orleans, bridges and tunnels for railroad and highway use, together with all approaches, railroad and highway connections, roads, roadways, railroads, terminals, water craft and other structures, improvements, facilities and accessories thereunto appertaining;

(b) To acquire, by expropriation or otherwise, the property, ownership, use or possession of any lands or other things necessary for the construction, equipment, maintenance or operation of any such bridge or tunnel and appurtenances; and

(c) To lay out, open, close, alter or change the route of any roadway, non-navigable stream or drain over which the approaches of any such bridge or tunnel, or over which any part of the Public Belt Railroad system of the City of New Orleans shall extend.

(2) The City of New Orleans is further hereby granted power, for the purpose of constructing any such bridges or tunnels and appurtenances, and for the purpose of acquiring the lands or other things necessary thereto, to issue its obligations in such forms, numbers, denominations and amounts, at such times and prices and upon such terms and conditions as to maturities, rates and payment of interest and final redemption as the said City of New Orleans may deem advisable, subject to the following limitations:

(a) Except as may be herein otherwise provided, all such obligations shall be secured solely and only by liens and mortgages upon and against such bridges or tunnels and appurtenances, and the lands or other things necessary thereto, and by a lien and pledge upon the net revenues derived from the operation thereof, and shall be paid therefrom and from no other source or sources whatsoever, except as otherwise stipulated herein, and not by any tax or assessment or levy upon any taxable property in the City of New Orleans, nor out of any other funds, revenues or things of value of said city; the true intent and meaning hereof being that save and except to the extent, out of the funds, and in the manner herein stated, the City of New Orleans shall never be liable for, nor shall it assume, any debt, liability or obligation incurred or created in the execution of the provisions hereof.

(b) During the period of construction of such bridges and tunnels and appurtenances, and during such times as the revenues from the operation thereof shall not be sufficient to provide for the interest on, and for the redemption of, any and all of the obligations hereinabove authorized to be issued, any and all of such obligations falling due shall be redeemed and all accrued interest shall be paid from the net revenues of the Public Belt Railroad system of the City of New Orleans to such extent as may be required, after providing in the manner prescribed by Act No. 179 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, session of 1908, for the payment of the principal and interest of any bonds authorized by said Act No. 179 of 1908, whether heretofore or hereafter issued.

(3) Any bridges or tunnels and appurtenances thereof constructed, equipped, maintained or operated by the City of New Orleans under the authority hereby conferred, and all other property acquired by the City of New Orleans under the provisions of this amendment, shall form and are hereby constituted an integral part of the Public Belt Railroad system, as it now or as it may hereafter exist, which said system the City of New Orleans is hereby authorized to extend and operate in and beyond the Parish of Orleans; and the Public Belt Railroad Commission of the City of New Orleans is hereby vested with the same powers with respect to the Public Belt Railroad system as well as with respect to such bridges, tunnels, appurtenances and property, their acquisition, construction, operation and development as are now vested in said Commission by Act No. 179 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, session of 1908, with respect to the Public Belt Railroad as presently established.

The Public Belt Railroad Commission is hereby authorized without prior authority or approval therefor by the Commission Council of the City of New Orleans, to expend out of any of its revenues and for the purpose of constructing such bridges or tunnels a sum not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars on any one contract, provided, however, that all disbursements beyond said sum shall be made only after they shall have been first authorized and approved by the Commission Council of the City of New Orleans.

(4) The Public Belt Railroad Commission, under such terms and conditions as it may deem advisable, shall have the right to switch, handle or convey, in continuous movement, for any railroad, trains over such bridges or through such tunnels and over the main lines of the Public Belt Railroad to the depot or yard of said railroad, or to any union passenger depot or union terminal of the Public Belt Railroad system; it being understood that the sole purpose of this provision is to facilitate the movement of trains entering the City of New Orleans on the east or west bank of the Mississippi River. Under no condition can the Public Belt Railroad Commission grant switching privileges to any railroad over the Public Belt Railroad system.

(5) Any bridge or tunnel constructed and any appurtenances thereof, and any lands or other things necessary thereto, acquired or constructed under the provisions of this amendment, and any and all property leased to or by the City of New Orleans for the purpose of this amendment, during the life of the lease, shall be exempt from every form of taxation, special assessment or license, and shall in no manner be hypothecated, leased or alienated except and only to further the acquiring of other property or properties for the Public Belt Railroad system, or to otherwise advance and carry out the objects and purposes of this amendment.

(6) The provisions of this amendment shall constitute a contract between the holders of any and all obligations issued thereunder, the State of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans.

(7) None of the provisions of this amendment shall be construed or interpreted so as to conflict with the provisions of Act No. 4 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, session of 1916, being a Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State providing for the funding of certain debts of the City of New Orleans and of the Board of Directors of the Public Schools, Parish of Orleans, respectively, nor as repealing, affecting, changing or altering Act 179 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1908, authorizing the issuance of two million dollars for bonds for Belt Railroad purposes.

(8) That all the rights, franchises and immunities herein granted shall continue and exist only upon the condition that the construction of said bridge shall be actively begun not later than May 1, 1920, and that the bridge shall be completed within five years from the date of the commencement of the work; provided, that after the work of construction has begun, in the event of delays occasioned by litigation, strikes, panics, lock-outs, failure of contractor or sub-contractors to deliver materials on contract time, or of any contractor or subcontractor to complete work on contract time, or any delay occasioned by any act or circumstance over which the grantee herein has no control, there shall be and is hereby granted further time for completion, equal to the period covered by such delays; and provided, further, if the Congress of the United States shall, after the construction of said bridge has begun, grant an extension of time or further delay for the completion of said bridge, then such additional delay shall be and is hereby, ipso facto, granted under this Act.

Section 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That the amendment proposed by this Act shall be submitted to the electors of the State for their approval or rejection at the Congressional election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in the month of November, 1916; that there shall be printed on the official ballots to be used at said election the words:

"For the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana granting to the City of New Orleans power to construct, equip, maintain and operate bridges or tunnels across the Mississippi River at or near New Orleans, etc.;" and the words

"Against the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana granting to the City of New Orleans power to construct, equip, maintain and operate bridges or tunnels across the Mississippi River at or near New Orleans, etc."

And that each elector shall indicate on the ballot cast by him, as provided by the general election laws of the State, whether he votes for or against the proposed amendment.

HEWITT BOUANCHAUD,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

FERNAND MOUTON,
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.

Approved: June 30, 1916.

R. G. PLEASANT,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.

A true copy:
James J. BAILEY,
Secretary of State.

Act No. 84

House Bill No. 193. By Mr. Powell, Chairman, Committtee on the Judiciary, Section "A." Substitute for House Bill No. 3.

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to Article 148 of the State Constitution relative to the District Attorney for the Parish of Orleans, his election, qualification, term of office, compensation, assistants and office force.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected by each house concurring, That Article 148 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana be so amended as to read as folows:

Article 148. There shall be a District Attorney for the Parish of Or-