

Subject Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

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Overview

This bill would propose a constitutional amendment in the 2024 general election that would increase the amount of lottery proceeds dedicated to the environment and natural resources trust fund as well as make the dedication permanent and increase the amount available for appropriation each year.

The environment and natural resources trust fund is a constitutionally dedicated fund that may be spent only on the “protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.” The fund currently receives 40 percent of the net proceeds from the state lottery which is the minimum amount required to be dedicated to the fund under the constitution until 2025.

Article 1: Constitutional Amendment

Section Description – Article 1: Constitutional Amendment

1 Constitutional amendment proposed.

Proposes a constitutional amendment that would increase the amount of lottery proceeds dedicated to the environment and natural resources trust fund from 40 to 50 percent and make the dedication permanent. The proposed amendment would also prohibit the assets in the fund from being used to pay the principal or interest of any bonds or from being used to pay any costs related to the construction, repair, improvement, or operation of wastewater facilities or systems. The amendment would also raise the amount of money that may be appropriated each year from 5.5 percent to 7 percent of the market value of the fund.

2 Submission to voters.

States the question for the proposed environment and natural resources trust fund amendment that would be submitted to the voters in the 2024 general election.

Article 2: Statutory Changes

Section Description – Article 2: Statutory Changes

- 1 Payment; unclaimed prizes.**
Requires all unclaimed prize money from the lottery to be transferred to the environment and natural resources trust fund each fiscal year. Under current law, it is transferred to the general fund.



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