

House Resolution 780

By: Representatives Harbin of the 80th, Dodson of the 84th, Post 1, and Stephens of the 123rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to allocate the total revenue from the state
 2 proceeds of the tobacco tax to fund indigent health care in hospitals, care provided to trauma
 3 patients in trauma hospitals, and public health education programs on tobacco cessation; to
 4 provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other
 5 purposes.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 SECTION 1.

8 Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI is amended by adding a new subparagraph (n) at the end
 9 thereof to read as follows:

10 "(n) The General Assembly shall provide by general law for the creation of a separate
 11 Medical Trust Fund. The total amount of revenue derived from any tax on tobacco
 12 products shall be paid into such trust fund to be used exclusively for funding indigent
 13 health care provided in licensed hospitals, health care services provided for trauma victims,
 14 and public health programs supported through the Department of Community Health's
 15 education programs on tobacco cessation. Moneys paid into the trust fund shall not be
 16 subject to the provisions of Article III, Section IX, Paragraph IV(c), relative to lapsing of
 17 funds, or of Article VII, Section III, Paragraph II, relative to funds paid into the state
 18 treasury, except that moneys appropriated from the trust fund and not committed shall lapse
 19 back to the trust fund."

20 SECTION 2.

21 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as
 22 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the
 23 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

1 " YES Shall the Constitution be amended so as to allocate the total revenue from
2 any tax on tobacco products to be used exclusively to fund health care
3 NO services provided in hospital emergency rooms for trauma victims, indigent
4 health care provided in hospitals for low-income persons, and public health
5 education programs on tobacco cessation?"

6 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."
7 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
8 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
9 become a part of the Constitution of this state.