

House Resolution 1399

By: Representatives Trammell of the 132nd, Hugley of the 136th, Beverly of the 143rd, Williams of the 168th, Alexander of the 66th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to
 2 provide by law for casino gambling in this state; to provide that the General Assembly by law
 3 shall allocate taxes, revenues, fees, and assessments derived from the licensing, regulation,
 4 and taxation of casino gambling to the State of Georgia Medicaid Expansion and REACH
 5 Georgia Scholarship Trust Fund for the specific purpose of expanding Medicaid eligibility
 6 and implementation of certain services and to fund REACH Georgia Scholarship Program
 7 to be established by law; to provide for the creation of the State of Georgia Medicaid
 8 Expansion and REACH Georgia Scholarship Trust Fund; to provide for the redesignation of
 9 a current subparagraph of the Constitution; to provide for related matters; to provide for the
 10 submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 SECTION 1.

13 Article I, Section II, Paragraph VIII of the Constitution is amended by adding new
 14 subparagraphs to read as follows:

15 "(e)(1) The General Assembly may provide by law for the operation and regulation of
 16 casino gambling in this state and for any matters relating to such activity. The General
 17 Assembly may by law define casino gambling, establish a licensing framework, limit the
 18 number of licenses for such activity at resort-style casinos within this state to three or
 19 fewer, and otherwise provide for any other matters relating to the purposes or provisions
 20 of this subparagraph (e). The General Assembly's limitation and regulation of casino
 21 gambling licenses within this state shall not be subject to Article III, Section VI,
 22 Paragraph V(c).

23 (2) The General Assembly may impose by law taxes, revenues, fees, and assessments
 24 on casino gambling and the licensing thereof and may authorize any regulatory body
 25 designated by the General Assembly to collect such taxes, revenues, fees, and
 26 assessments; and such regulatory body may use a portion of such proceeds to pay its
 27 operating costs as may be specified by law. Funds may also be appropriated by the

28 General Assembly for the operating costs of the regulatory body. The General Assembly
 29 shall provide for the regulatory body to transmit to the state treasurer the entire amount
 30 of taxes, revenues, fees, and assessments collected by the regulatory body. The proceeds
 31 from such taxes, revenues, fees, and assessments transferred to the state treasurer shall
 32 be expended by the state only for the purposes authorized by subparagraph (3) of this
 33 subparagraph (e). The taxes, revenues, fees, and assessments derived from the licensing
 34 and regulation of casino gambling in this state shall not be subject to Article III, Section
 35 IX, Paragraph IV(c); Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(a); or Article VII, Section III,
 36 Paragraph II.

37 (3) The taxes, revenues, fees, and assessments derived from the licensing and
 38 regulation of casino gambling in this state shall be separately accounted for and shall be
 39 deposited into the State of Georgia Medicaid Expansion and REACH Georgia
 40 Scholarship Trust Fund created pursuant to subparagraph (q) of Article III, Section IV,
 41 Paragraph VI of the Constitution. The funds deposited into said trust fund shall be used
 42 only for the expansion of Medicaid eligibility, for funding the REACH Georgia
 43 Scholarship Program to be established by law; and for the operational expenses of the
 44 state's designated regulatory body for casino gambling, with not less than 70 percent of
 45 the funds to be used for the expansion of Medicaid eligibility, not less than 25 percent of
 46 the funds to be used for funding the REACH Georgia Scholarship Program, and not less
 47 than 1 percent but no more than 5 percent of the total funds to be used for operational
 48 expenses of the state's designated regulatory body for casino gambling."

49 SECTION 2.

50 Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI of the Constitution is amended by redesignating
 51 subparagraph (o), relating to the dedication of the excise tax on fireworks, as
 52 subparagraph (p) and by adding a new subparagraph to read as follows:

53 "(q) The General Assembly is authorized to provide by general law for the State of
 54 Georgia 'Medicaid Expansion and REACH Georgia Scholarship Trust Fund' into which all
 55 moneys collected from taxes, revenues, fees, and assessments derived from the licensing
 56 and regulation of casino gambling in this state shall be paid, and such moneys shall be
 57 dedicated for the purpose of the expansion of Medicaid eligibility, for funding the REACH
 58 Georgia Scholarship Program to be established by law, and to fund the operational
 59 expenses of the state's designated regulatory body for casino gambling. The revenues
 60 dedicated pursuant to this subparagraph shall not lapse, the provisions of Article III,
 61 Section IX, Paragraph IV(c) to the contrary notwithstanding, and such revenues shall not
 62 be subject to the limitations of subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph or Article VII, Section
 63 III, Paragraph II."

64

SECTION 3.

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

68 " YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide for a limited
 69 NO number of resort-style casinos in order to generate revenues to be deposited
 70 into a trust fund to be created and used for the expansion of Medicaid
 71 eligibility, for funding the REACH Georgia Scholarship Program to be
 72 established by law, and for the operational expenses of the state's designated
 73 regulatory body for casino gambling?"

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