

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1612

By Committee on Ways and Means

2-11

1 A PROPOSITION to amend article 11 of the constitution of the state of
2 Kansas by adding a new section thereto; concerning the power of the
3 legislature to contract public debt and pledges to the payment thereof
4 the full faith, credit and taxing power of the state.
5

6 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Kansas, two-thirds of the*
7 *members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-*
8 *thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the*
9 *House of Representatives concurring therein:*

10 Section 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of
11 the state of Kansas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state
12 for their approval or rejection: Article 11 of the constitution of the state of
13 Kansas is hereby amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

14 "§ 14. **Power to contract public debt.** Notwithstanding
15 any provision of article 11 of the constitution of the state of
16 Kansas to the contrary, commencing with the 2026 regular
17 session of the legislature, the legislature may contract public
18 debt and pledges to the payment thereof the full faith, credit and
19 taxing power of the state. Every such debt shall be authorized
20 by law for the purpose specified in such law and upon a
21 declaration of the legislature in such law that such debt is
22 appropriate after considering the cost-effectiveness and debt
23 service efficiency for the state. The legislature shall establish by
24 law all matters concerning the contracting of public debt
25 pursuant to this section, including, but not limited to, the kinds
26 of notes, general obligation bonds, revenue bonds or other
27 evidence of public debt that may be issued by the state."

28 Sec. 2. The following statement shall be printed on the ballot with
29 the amendment as a whole:

30 "*Explanatory statement.* This amendment would modernize the
31 1861 public debt law for the purpose of reducing the interest
32 rate paid by the state on new and refunded debt obligations,
33 to allow the legislature to contract for public debt, including
34 issuing general obligation bonds, revenue bonds or other
35 evidence of public debt backed by the full faith, credit and
36 taxing power of the state after considering the cost-

1 effectiveness and debt service efficiency for the state, and
2 would provide the legislature authority over all matters
3 relating to such public debt.

4 "A vote for this proposition would allow the legislature to
5 contract for public debt and pledge the full faith, credit and
6 taxing power of the state for the payment of such debt and
7 give the legislature authority over all matters concerning the
8 contracting of public debt of the state.

9 "A vote against this proposition would provide no change to the
10 Kansas constitution."

11 Sec. 3. This resolution, if approved by two-thirds of the members
12 elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-thirds of the
13 members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of
14 Representatives, shall be entered on the journals, together with the yeas
15 and nays. The secretary of state shall cause this resolution to be published
16 as provided by law and shall cause the proposed amendment to be
17 submitted to the electors of the state at the primary election in August in
18 the year 2025, unless a special election is called at a sooner date by
19 concurrent resolution of the legislature, in which case the proposed
20 amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the special
21 election.