

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE JOINT
4 RESOLUTION 15

By: Bergstrom

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State
8 to refer to the people for their approval or
9 rejection a proposed amendment to Section 5 of
10 Article II of the Oklahoma Constitution; providing
11 exception on prohibition of use of public money or
12 property for certain purposes; providing ballot
13 title; and directing filing.

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 1ST SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

16 SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for
17 their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law,
18 the following proposed amendment to Section 5 of Article II of the
19 Oklahoma Constitution to read as follows:

20 Section 5. A. No public money or property shall ever be
21 appropriated, applied, donated, or used, directly or indirectly, for
22 the use, benefit, or support of any sect, church, denomination, or
23 system of religion, or for the use, benefit, or support of any
24 priest, preacher, minister, or other religious teacher or dignitary,
or sectarian institution as such.

1 B. Nothing in this section shall preclude the appropriation,
2 application, donation or use, directly or indirectly, of public
3 money or property for the use, benefit or support of a monument,
4 memorial, plaque or other commemorative signage inscribed with the
5 Ten Commandments on a public building or grounds of a public
6 building in this state, provided that:

7 1. The height, width and depth of the monument is proportionate
8 to other monuments on the public building or grounds of the public
9 building;

10 2. The height, width and depth of the memorial, plaque or other
11 commemorative signage is proportionate to other memorials, plaques
12 or commemorative signage on the public building or grounds of the
13 public building;

14 3. The primary content inscribed on the monument, memorial,
15 plaque or other commemorative signage is the text of the Ten
16 Commandments; and

17 4. Any remaining content inscribed on the monument, memorial,
18 plaque or other commemorative signage is limited to an
19 acknowledgment of the historical role of the Ten Commandments in the
20 legal and political history of the United States of America and the
21 State of Oklahoma, and the person, persons or organizations
22 responsible for donating, building, erecting or maintaining the
23 monument, memorial, plaque or other commemorative signage.
24

1 SECTION 2. The Ballot Title for the proposed Constitutional
2 amendment as set forth in SECTION 1 of this resolution shall be in
3 the following form:

4 BALLOT TITLE

5 Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

6 THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

7 This measure amends Section 5 of Article 2 of the Oklahoma
8 Constitution. It creates an exception on the prohibition
9 against using public money or property for a religious purpose.
10 It allows monuments, memorials, plaques or other commemorative
11 signage of the Ten Commandments to be on public buildings or the
12 grounds of public buildings.

13 SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

14 FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES _____

15 AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO _____

16 SECTION 3. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall,
17 immediately after the passage of this resolution, prepare and file
18 one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in SECTION 2
19 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney
20 General.

21
22 56-1-960 TEK 1/18/2017 5:50:07 PM

23
24