

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

HOUSE JOINT
RESOLUTION 1037

By: Woolley

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State to refer to the people for their approval or rejection a proposed new Section 5 to Article XIII-A of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma; authorizing the Legislature to adopt a joint resolution to freeze, suspend, or withhold funds to institutions within the State System of Higher Education; providing for procedure of enacting joint resolution to freeze, suspend, or withhold funds; limiting freeze, suspension, or withholding of funds to maximum of two years; requiring funding to automatically resume at conclusion of timeframe provided in resolution; authorizing extension, early termination, or modification of freeze, suspension, or withholding of funds; clarifying application to only state-appropriated funds; providing ballot title; and directing filing.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE
2ND SESSION OF THE 60TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for
their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law,

1 the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of
2 Oklahoma by adding a new Section 5 to Article XIII-A thereof, to
3 read as follows:

4 A. The Legislature of the State of Oklahoma is hereby granted
5 the authority to freeze, suspend, or withhold up to one hundred
6 percent (100%) of state-appropriated funds recommended for
7 allocation to an institution within The Oklahoma State System of
8 Higher Education by the State Regents of Higher Education pursuant
9 to Section 2 of Article XIII-A.

10 B. A freeze, suspension, or withholding of funds authorized
11 under subsection A of this section shall be adopted by a joint
12 resolution upon a vote of a majority of both the Oklahoma State
13 Senate and the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

14 C. A joint resolution to freeze, suspend, or withhold funds
15 authorized pursuant to subsection A of this section shall identify:

16 1. The state educational institution subject to the freeze,
17 suspension, or withholding of funds;

18 2. The percentage of state-appropriated funds, up to one
19 hundred percent (100%), to be frozen, suspended, or withheld; and

20 3. The duration of the freeze, suspension, or withholding of
21 funds.

22 D. The joint resolution shall be subject to gubernatorial
23 approval procedures as provided for in Section 11 of Article VI of
24 the Oklahoma Constitution. Upon enactment of the resolution, the

1 Legislature shall notify the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
2 Education and the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
3 implementation of the freeze, suspension, or withholding of funds as
4 provided for in the joint resolution.

5 E. A freeze, suspension, or withholding of funds enacted
6 pursuant to this section shall not exceed a period of two (2)
7 calendar years or seven hundred thirty (730) calendar days.

8 F. State-appropriated funding shall automatically resume at the
9 conclusion of the specified timeframe provided in the resolution
10 unless extended or modified by a subsequent joint resolution
11 consistent with this section.

12 G. The Legislature may, at any time and by a majority vote of
13 both the Oklahoma State Senate and the Oklahoma House of
14 Representatives, enact a joint resolution to lift, terminate, or
15 modify a previously enacted resolution provided for under this
16 section. Upon enactment of such subsequent resolution, state-
17 appropriated funding shall be restored or adjusted in accordance
18 with the resolution.

19 H. A freeze, suspension, or withholding of funds enacted
20 pursuant to this section shall apply only to state-appropriated
21 funds and shall not affect the institution's receipt of federal
22 funds, private donations, tuition or fees, or other nonstate-
23 appropriated revenue.

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

BALLOT TITLE

Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

This proposition would add a new section to Article 13-A of the Oklahoma Constitution allowing the Legislature, by a majority vote of both the Oklahoma State Senate and the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and with gubernatorial approval or a legislative veto override, to freeze, suspend, or withhold up to one hundred percent (100%) of state-appropriated funding to any taxpayer-funded university, college, or institution of higher education within the State of Oklahoma for up to two (2) years. This new section would also allow the Legislature to vote at any time to lift, terminate, or modify the freeze, suspension, or withholding of funds using the same procedures. The freeze, suspension, or withholding of funds would only apply to state funding and would not affect federal or private funds.

SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES _____

AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO _____

1 SECTION 3. The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives,
2 immediately after the passage of this resolution, shall prepare and
3 file one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in
4 SECTION 2 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the
5 Attorney General.

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7 60-2-14328 AQH 12/23/25
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