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LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO  
Sixty-eighth Legislature Second Regular Session - 2026  
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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION  
2 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 8, ARTICLE IX OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE  
3 STATE OF IDAHO, RELATING TO STATE TRUST LAND; STATING THE QUESTION TO  
4 BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE; DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO  
5 PREPARE THE STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY LAW; AND DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF  
6 STATE TO PUBLISH THE AMENDMENT AND ARGUMENTS AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

7 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 SECTION 1. That Section 8, Article IX of the Constitution of the State  
9 of Idaho be amended to read as follows:

10 Section 8. LOCATION AND DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC LANDS. (1) It  
11 shall be the duty of the state board of land commissioners to pro-  
12 vide for the location, protection, sale or rental of all the lands  
13 heretofore, ~~or which may hereafter be~~ granted to or acquired by the  
14 state by or from the general government, under such regulations  
15 as may be prescribed by law, and in such manner as will secure the  
16 maximum long term financial return to the institution to which  
17 granted ~~or to the state if not specifically granted~~; provided, that  
18 no ~~state~~ such lands shall be sold for less than the appraised price.  
19 No law shall ever be passed by the legislature granting any privi-  
20 leges to persons who may have settled upon any ~~such public granted~~  
21 or acquired lands, subsequent to the survey thereof by the general  
22 government, by which the amount to be derived by the sale, or other  
23 disposition of such lands, shall be diminished, directly or indi-  
24 rectly. The legislature shall, at the earliest practicable period,  
25 provide by law that the general grants of land made by congress to  
26 the state upon statehood shall be judiciously located and carefully  
27 preserved and held in trust, subject to disposal at public auction  
28 for the use and benefit of the respective object for which said  
29 grants of land were made, and the legislature shall provide for the  
30 sale of ~~said~~ such lands from time to time and for the sale of timber  
31 on all state lands and for the faithful application of the proceeds  
32 thereof in accordance with the terms of said grants; provided, that  
33 not to exceed one hundred sections of state lands shall be sold in  
34 any one year, and to be sold in subdivisions of not to exceed three  
35 hundred and twenty acres of land to any one individual, company or  
36 corporation. The legislature shall have power to authorize the  
37 state board of land commissioners to exchange granted or acquired  
38 lands of the state on an equal value basis for other lands under  
39 agreement with the United States, local units of government, corpo-  
40 rations, companies, individuals, or combinations thereof.

41 (2) Excluding lands granted pursuant to subsection (1) of this  
42 section, lands acquired by the exchanging of lands granted pursuant  
43 to subsection (1) of this section, and lands purchased with moneys

1        derived from the sale of lands granted pursuant to subsection (1)  
2        of this section, all other lands granted to or acquired by the state  
3        by or from the general government shall be held in a separate trust  
4        as public lands of the state of the state. The trust shall remain  
5        inviolable and intact for this and future generations. Such lands  
6        shall not be sold. Such lands may be exchanged, except with lands  
7        granted, exchanged, purchased, or otherwise acquired pursuant to  
8        subsection (1) of this section, with two-thirds approval of the  
9        legislature. The state board of land commissioners may lease such  
10       lands under such regulations as may be prescribed by law. The state  
11       board of land commissioners shall manage such lands by employing  
12       best management practices to achieve a harmonious and coordinated  
13       management of the various resources, each with the other, that  
14       avoids impairment to the land, ensures the development and utiliza-  
15       tion of the land and its resources occurs in a manner that conserves  
16       existing and future uses of the land, preserves valid, existing  
17       rights, and is in accordance with state law. The state board of land  
18       commissioners shall coordinate management with agencies of the  
19       state to promote public recreation, scenic values, watershed qual-  
20       ity, and wildlife habitat and to further effectuate the purposes  
21       of this trust. Revenue derived from such lands shall be placed in a  
22       permanent designated fund, the proceeds of which shall be annually  
23       appropriated by the legislature to support operating and maintain-  
24       ing such lands, to compensate local governments for payment in lieu  
25       of taxes, to reduce the cost of hunting, fishing, and other recre-  
26       ational use permits for Idaho residents, and to support primary and  
27       secondary public educational facilities.

28       SECTION 2. The question to be submitted to the electors of the State of  
29       Idaho at the next general election shall be as follows:

30       "Shall Section 8, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Idaho  
31       be amended to provide that certain lands granted or acquired from the federal  
32       government shall never be sold and shall be placed in a trust to be managed  
33       for the benefit of the people of Idaho?"

34       SECTION 3. The Legislative Council is directed to prepare the state-  
35       ments required by Section 67-453, Idaho Code, and file the same.

36       SECTION 4. The Secretary of State is hereby directed to publish this  
37       proposed constitutional amendment and arguments as required by law.