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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8202

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State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1995 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Winsley, Drew, Sheldon and C. Anderson

Read first time 01/09/95. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3            THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there  
4 shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their  
5 approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article VII,  
6 section 2 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as  
7 follows:

8            Article VII, section 2.    LIMITATION ON LEVIES.    Except as  
9 hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this  
10 Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal  
11 property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or  
12 hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one (~~per-centum~~)  
13 percent of the true and fair value of such property in money:  
14 *Provided, however,* That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the  
15 rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility  
16 district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section  
17 shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district,  
18 or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied  
19 for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public  
20 utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation  
21 imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only

1 (a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by  
2 a majority of at least three-fifths of the (~~electors~~) voters thereof  
3 voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not  
4 more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is  
5 to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period,  
6 either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing  
7 district, at which election the number of (~~persons~~) voters voting  
8 "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number  
9 equal to forty (~~per centum~~) percent of the total votes cast in such  
10 taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number  
11 of (~~electors~~) voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty  
12 (~~per centum~~) percent of the total votes cast in such taxing district  
13 in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least  
14 three-fifths of the (~~electors~~) voters thereof voting on the  
15 proposition to levy when the number of (~~electors~~) voters voting on  
16 the proposition exceeds forty (~~per centum~~) percent of the total votes  
17 cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election:  
18 *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of this  
19 Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy  
20 additional tax for the support of the common schools may provide such  
21 support for a two year period and any proposition to levy an additional  
22 tax to support the construction, modernization, or remodelling of  
23 school facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding  
24 six years;

25 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue  
26 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of  
27 making the required payments of principal and interest on general  
28 obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the  
29 replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at  
30 least three-fifths of the (~~electors~~) voters thereof voting on the  
31 proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest  
32 thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein  
33 provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than  
34 twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided  
35 by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election  
36 the total number of (~~persons~~) voters voting on the proposition shall  
37 constitute not less than forty (~~per centum~~) percent of the total  
38 number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding  
39 general election: *Provided*, That any such taxing district shall have

1 the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general  
2 obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and  
3 to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual  
4 levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, *And*  
5 *provided further*, That the provisions of this section shall also be  
6 subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of  
7 this Constitution;

8 (c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying  
9 the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on  
10 December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of  
11 the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last  
12 resort;

13 (d) By the state for the purpose of funding state fire protection  
14 services in an amount not to exceed two cents per thousand dollars of  
15 assessed value per year.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause  
17 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at  
18 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in  
19 every legal newspaper in the state.

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