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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4215

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**State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Orcutt, Scott, Manweller, Magendanz, McCaslin, Griffey, Hargrove, Wilson, Van Werven, Caldier, Condotta, Rodne, Taylor, Shea, Harmsworth, Vick, Johnson, Holy, Buys, McCabe, Dye, Pike, Chandler, Hayes, Smith, Kochmar, Klippert, Dent, Wilcox, Muri, Schmick, Short, Nealey, Haler, Young, Stokesbary, Stambaugh, and Zeiger

Read first time 01/25/16. Referred to Committee on Finance.

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 the  
4 secretary of state must submit to the qualified voters of the state  
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to  
6 Article II of the Constitution of the state of Washington by adding a  
7 new section to read as follows:

8            Article II, section . . . (1) Any action or combination of  
9 actions by the legislature that raises taxes may be taken only if  
10 approved by at least a two-thirds vote of both the house of  
11 representatives and the senate. Pursuant to the referendum power set  
12 forth in Article II, section 1(b) of this Constitution, tax increases  
13 may be referred to the voters for their approval or rejection at an  
14 election. For the purposes of this subsection, "raises taxes" means  
15 any action or combination of actions by the state legislature that  
16 increases state tax revenue deposited in any fund, budget, or  
17 account, regardless of whether the revenues are deposited into the  
18 general fund.

19            (2)(a) Unless provided otherwise in this subsection, a fee may  
20 only be imposed or increased in any fiscal year if it is  
21 legislatively approved with at least a simple majority vote in both  
22 the house of representatives and the senate.

1 (b) The requirement in (a) of this subsection does not apply to  
2 an assessment made by: (i) An agricultural commodity commission; (ii)  
3 a board created by state statute or created under a marketing  
4 agreement or order under chapter 15.65 or 15.66 RCW; or (iii) the  
5 forest products commission, if such assessment is approved by  
6 referendum in accordance with the provisions of the statutes creating  
7 the commission or board or in accordance with chapter 15.65 or 15.66  
8 RCW.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state must cause  
10 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four  
11 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every  
12 legal newspaper in the state.

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