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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8211

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Benton, Pearson, Rivers, Braun, Schoesler, Dammeier, O'Ban, Miloscia, and Bailey

Read first time 01/19/16.      Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Security.

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.

15            (2) Legislative approval for fee increases is required. A fee may  
16 only be imposed or increased in any fiscal year if approved with a  
17 simple majority vote in both the house of representatives and the  
18 senate. Only the legislature may set the amount of a fee increase.  
19 The amount of a fee increase must be expressly stated in legislation  
20 and passed by the legislature to ensure that the fee increase is  
21 subject to the ten-year cost projection and any other accountability  
22 procedures required by RCW 43.135.031.

1 (a) A fee increase that takes effect in 2016 expires on the  
2 effective date of this amendment unless the fee increase was imposed  
3 as required in subsection (1) of this section.

4 (b) This section does not apply to an assessment made by any of  
5 the following, if the assessment is approved by referendum in  
6 accordance with the provision of the statutes creating the commission  
7 or board or chapter 15.65 or 15.66 RCW for approving such  
8 assessments:

9 (i) An agricultural commodity commission;

10 (ii) A board created by state statute or created under a  
11 marketing agreement or order under chapter 15.65 or 15.66 RCW; or

12 (iii) The forest products commission.

13 (3) For the purposes of this section:

14 (a) "Fee increase" includes a new fee or an increase in an  
15 existing fee, including those related to Titles 47 and 28B RCW; and

16 (b) "Raises taxes" means any action or combination of actions by  
17 the state legislature that increases state revenue deposited in any  
18 fund, budget, or account, regardless of whether the revenues are  
19 deposited into the general fund.

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

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