
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4208

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Stanford, Fitzgibbon, and Ormsby

Read first time 02/15/17. 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 shall submit to the qualified voters of the state
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to
6 Article VII, section 1 of the Constitution of the state of Washington
7 to read as follows:

8 Article VII, section 1. The power of taxation shall never be
9 suspended, surrendered or contracted away. All taxes shall be uniform
10 upon the same class of property within the territorial limits of the
11 authority levying the tax and shall be levied and collected for
12 public purposes only. The word "property" as used herein shall mean
13 and include everything, whether tangible or intangible, subject to
14 ownership. All real estate shall constitute one class: *Provided*, That
15 the legislature may tax mines and mineral resources and lands devoted
16 to reforestation by either a yield tax or an ad valorem tax at such
17 rate as it may fix, or by both. Such property as the legislature may
18 by general laws provide shall be exempt from taxation. Property of
19 the United States and of the state, counties, school districts and
20 other municipal corporations, and credits secured by property
21 actually taxed in this state, not exceeding in value the value of
22 such property, shall be exempt from taxation. The legislature shall

1 have power, by appropriate legislation, to exempt personal property
2 to the amount of fifteen thousand (\$15,000.00) dollars for each head
3 of a family liable to assessment and taxation under the provisions of
4 the laws of this state of which the individual is the actual bona
5 fide owner. The legislature shall have the power, by appropriate
6 legislation, to provide a homestead exemption from the property taxes
7 levied for state purposes of up to fifty thousand (\$50,000.00)
8 dollars of valuation of residential real property. The legislature
9 may place such restrictions and conditions upon the granting of the
10 homestead exemption as it deems proper.

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

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