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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4207

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Manweller, McDonald, Haler, Harris, Buys, Klippert, MacEwen, Chandler, Taylor, Caldier, Vick, Condotta, Schmick, J. Walsh, Hayes, Graves, Irwin, McCaslin, Van Werven, McCabe, Muri, Maycumber, Volz, Barkis, Wilcox, Kristiansen, Kretz, Shea, Griffey, Rodne, Harmsworth, Steele, Kraft, Jenkin, Holy, Dent, Hargrove, Pike, Stokesbary, Smith, Johnson, and Young

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 must 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. (a) 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.

18 (b) Such property as the legislature may by general laws provide  
19 shall be exempt from taxation. Property of the United States and of  
20 the state, counties, school districts and other municipal  
21 corporations, and credits secured by property actually taxed in this  
22 state, not exceeding in value the value of such property, shall be  
23 exempt from taxation. The legislature shall have power, by

1 appropriate legislation, to exempt personal property to the amount of  
2 fifteen thousand (\$15,000.00) dollars for each head of a family  
3 liable to assessment and taxation under the provisions of the laws of  
4 this state of which the individual is the actual bona fide owner.

5 (c) No state or local tax may be imposed on individual income  
6 derived from wages, investments, the sale of goods or services, or  
7 any other source; however, nothing in this article prohibits the  
8 modification of any state or local tax or fee authorized as of  
9 January 1, 2017.

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

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