

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2013-4629, by Representative DeBolt

WHEREAS, The House adopted permanent rules for the 2013-14 biennium with House Floor Resolution No. 4608 earlier this year; and

WHEREAS, The notice requirements set forth in House Rule 31 have been satisfied; and

WHEREAS, The state Supreme Court declared the two-thirds supermajority tax vote provisions of Initiative Measure No. 1053 unconstitutional on February 28, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The state Supreme Court invalidated the two-thirds supermajority tax vote provisions only because of the methodology by which they were imposed, and specifically allowed the adoption of such limitations by other means; and

WHEREAS, A two-thirds supermajority vote on tax increases is policy overwhelmingly supported by Washington voters, who have passed such a limitation in four different initiatives since 1993, the most recent being Initiative Measure No. 1185 in November of 2012; and

WHEREAS, A two-thirds supermajority vote on tax increases requirement acts as an appropriate check on the taxing authority of the government and promotes careful and bipartisan consideration of state revenue issues and policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that House Rule 10 is amended as follows:

In the last line of Rule 10(B), after "passed its second reading" insert "PROVIDED, That bills which raise taxes shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present to advance to third reading"