

SSJR 8201 - S AMD 383

By Senator Zeiger

NOT CONSIDERED 12/23/2019

1 Beginning on page 1, line 3, strike all material through "state."
2 on page 4, line 18 and insert the following:

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 2 of the Constitution of the state of Washington
7 and an amendment to Article IX of the Constitution of the state of
8 Washington by adding a new section to read as follows:

9 Article VII, section 2. Except as hereinafter provided and
10 notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the
11 aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the
12 state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created,
13 shall not in any year exceed one percent of the true and fair value
14 of such property in money. Nothing herein shall prevent levies at the
15 rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility
16 district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section
17 shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation,
18 district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or
19 have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port
20 or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific
21 limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded
22 only as follows:

23 (a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do
24 by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing
25 district voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax
26 submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the
27 proposed initial levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in
28 such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the
29 regular election of such taxing district, at which election the
30 number of voters voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute
31 three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total number
32 of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding
33 general election when the number of voters voting on the proposition

1 does not exceed forty percent of the total number of voters voting in
2 such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a
3 majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing
4 district voting on the proposition to levy when the number of voters
5 voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the number of
6 voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general
7 election. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution,
8 any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax
9 for the support of the common schools or fire protection districts
10 may provide such support for a period of up to four years and any
11 proposition to levy an additional tax to support the construction,
12 modernization, or remodelling of school facilities or fire facilities
13 may provide such support for a period not exceeding six years.
14 Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a proposition
15 under this subsection to levy an additional tax for a school district
16 shall be authorized by a majority of the voters voting on the
17 proposition, regardless of the number of voters voting on the
18 proposition;

19 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue
20 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose
21 of making the required payments of principal and interest on general
22 obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the
23 replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at
24 least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the
25 proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest
26 thereon by annual tax levies in excess of the limitation herein
27 provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than
28 twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner
29 provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which
30 election the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall
31 constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of voters
32 voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general
33 election. Any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of
34 its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said
35 district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the
36 interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess
37 of the tax limitation provided for herein. Notwithstanding any other
38 provision of this subsection (b), a proposition under this subsection
39 to levy an additional tax for a school district to pay principal and
40 interest on bonds as provided under this subsection (b) shall be

1 authorized by at least fifty-five percent of the voters voting on the
2 proposition, regardless of the number of voters voting on the
3 proposition, if the proposition is approved at the general election.

4 The provisions of this section shall also be subject to the
5 limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this
6 Constitution;

7 (c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of
8 preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when
9 ordered so to do by a court of last resort.

10 Article IX, section . . . State prevailing wage laws do not
11 apply to public works undertaken by, or under contract for, the board
12 of education of any school district.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single amendment
14 within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the state
15 Constitution.

16 The legislature finds that the changes contained in this
17 amendment constitute a single integrated plan for funding school
18 construction projects. If this amendment is held to be separate
19 amendments, this joint resolution is void in its entirety and is of
20 no further force and effect.

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

EFFECT: Authorizes bond approval at 55% voter approval if
approved at a general election. Prohibits state prevailing wage from
applying to school construction projects.

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