

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HJR 4237

*As Reported By House Committee on:
Housing*

Brief Description: Amending the Constitution to allow property tax relief for low-income property owners.

Sponsor(s): Representatives Nelson, Mitchell, Leonard, Ogden, Franklin, Jones, Wang and Anderson.

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Housing, February 5, 1992, DP.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HOUSING**

Majority Report: *Do pass.* Signed by 5 members: Representatives Nelson, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Mitchell, Ranking Minority Member; Leonard; and Ogden.

Minority Report: *Without recommendation.* Signed by 2 members: Representatives Winsley, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; and Ballard.

Staff: Kenny Pittman (786-7392).

Background: The Washington Constitution requires taxes be uniformly applied to real estate. The voters have approved a constitutional amendment to allow either a property tax exemption or property tax deferral for property owned by retired persons through the Senior Citizens and Retired Disabled Person Property Tax Exemption Program.

Summary of Bill: The Washington Constitution is amended to allow the Legislature to grant low-income property owners relief from the property tax on their residences. The Legislature is required to limit the property tax relief program to property owners below a specific income level. Additional restrictions and conditions may be placed on any property tax relief granted to low-income property owners. The constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at the next general election.

Fiscal Note: Requested January 15, 1992.

Effective Date: After approval by the voters at the November general election.

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: None.