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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4211

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State of Washington                      66th Legislature                      2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Gregerson, Walsh, Tarleton, Frame, and Morgan

Read first time 01/17/20. 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, It is the legislature's specific public policy objective to  
4 provide tax relief to homeowners and to find ways to make our state's  
5 tax system more modern and progressive. The legislature recognizes  
6 that property taxes impose a substantial financial burden on working  
7 families and those on fixed incomes, and that property tax relief  
8 programs have considerable value in addressing this burden and making  
9 our tax system more equitable. The vast majority of states in our  
10 nation — forty — have some form of broad-based property tax relief  
11 for homeowners. Washington state is not one of these states. It is  
12 the legislature's intent to establish a mechanism for adjusting  
13 property tax relief to account for variations in county by county  
14 property values; and

15            THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the  
16 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state  
17 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to  
18 Article VII, section 10 of the Constitution of the state of  
19 Washington to read as follows:

20            Article VII, section 10.    **SECTION 10 ((RETIRED—PERSONS))**  
21 **RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.**

22 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 7, section 1 (Amendment 14)

1 and Article 7, section 2 (Amendment 17), the following tax exemption  
2 shall be allowed as to real property:

3 The legislature shall have the power, by appropriate legislation,  
4 to grant to (~~retired~~) property owners relief from the property tax  
5 on the real property occupied as a residence by those owners. The  
6 legislature may place such restrictions and conditions upon the  
7 granting of such relief as it shall deem proper. Such restrictions  
8 and conditions may include, but are not limited to, the limiting of  
9 the relief to properties or portions thereof below a specific  
10 assessed value, or to those property owners below a specific level of  
11 income and those fulfilling certain minimum residential requirements.

12 The legislature shall additionally have the power, by appropriate  
13 legislation, to grant to property owners relief from the property tax  
14 on real property utilized for commercial purposes. Such relief shall  
15 not exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars. The legislature may place  
16 such restrictions and conditions upon the granting of such relief as  
17 it shall deem proper. Such restrictions and conditions may include,  
18 but are not limited to, the limiting of the relief to properties or  
19 portions thereof below a specific assessed value, or to those  
20 property owners below a specific level of income and those fulfilling  
21 certain commercial requirements.

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

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