

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HJR 4237

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*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.

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**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.