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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4208

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Simpson, Cairnes, Ruderman, Keiser, Conway, H. Sommers, Kagi, Schual-Berke, McIntire, O'Brien and Poulsen; by request of Governor Locke

Read first time 01/30/2001. 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, 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 1 of the Constitution of the state of Washington  
7 to read as follows:

8 Article VII, section 1. The power of taxation shall never be  
9 suspended, surrendered or contracted away. All taxes shall be uniform  
10 upon the same class of property within the territorial limits of the  
11 authority levying the tax and shall be levied and collected for public  
12 purposes only. However, the legislature may provide that increases in  
13 the assessed value of real property be phased-in over a period of up to  
14 four years, under conditions and restrictions provided by law. The  
15 word "property" as used herein shall mean and include everything,  
16 whether tangible or intangible, subject to ownership. All real estate  
17 shall constitute one class: *Provided*, That the legislature may tax  
18 mines and mineral resources and lands devoted to reforestation by  
19 either a yield tax or an ad valorem tax at such rate as it may fix, or  
20 by both. Such property as the legislature may by general laws provide  
21 shall be exempt from taxation. Property of the United States and of the

1 state, counties, school districts and other municipal corporations, and  
2 credits secured by property actually taxed in this state, not exceeding  
3 in value the value of such property, shall be exempt from taxation.  
4 The legislature shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to exempt  
5 personal property to the amount of three thousand (\$3,000.00) dollars  
6 for each head of a family liable to assessment and taxation under the  
7 provisions of the laws of this state of which the individual is the  
8 actual bona fide owner.

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

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