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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4228

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Orcutt, Herrera, McCune, Schmick, Ahern, Haler, Newhouse, Roach, Crouse, Skinner, and Ross

Read first time 01/28/08. 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. The legislature may provide for the averaging of  
13 assessed valuation increases under such conditions and restrictions as  
14 it shall deem proper. The word "property" as used herein shall mean  
15 and include everything, whether tangible or intangible, subject to  
16 ownership. All real estate shall constitute one class: Provided, That  
17 the legislature may tax mines and mineral resources and lands devoted  
18 to reforestation by either a yield tax or an ad valorem tax at such  
19 rate as it may fix, or by both. Such property as the legislature may

1 by general laws provide shall be exempt from taxation. Property of the  
2 United States and of the state, counties, school districts and other  
3 municipal corporations, and credits secured by property actually taxed  
4 in this state, not exceeding in value the value of such property, shall  
5 be exempt from taxation. The legislature shall have power, by  
6 appropriate legislation, to exempt personal property to the amount of  
7 fifteen thousand (\$15,000.00) dollars for each head of a family liable  
8 to assessment and taxation under the provisions of the laws of this  
9 state of which the individual is the actual bona fide owner.

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

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