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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8203

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Eide, McAuliffe, Weinstein, Jacobsen, Shin, Kohl-Welles, Pridemore, Kastama, Spanel, Rockefeller, Fairley, Tom, Poulsen, Hatfield, Prentice, Haugen, Regala, Brown, Kilmer, Murray, Fraser, Marr, Rasmussen, Kline, Franklin and Kauffman

Read first time 01/08/2007. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

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 2 and Article VIII, section 6 of the Constitution  
7 of the state of Washington to read as follows:

8 Article VII, section 2. Except as hereinafter provided and  
9 notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate  
10 of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all  
11 taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any  
12 year exceed one percent of the true and fair value of such property in  
13 money: *Provided, however,* That nothing herein shall prevent levies at  
14 the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility  
15 district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section  
16 shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district,  
17 or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied  
18 for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public

1 utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation  
2 imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only as follows:

3 (a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by  
4 a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing  
5 district voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax  
6 submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the  
7 proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve  
8 month period, either at a special election or at the regular election  
9 of such taxing district, at which election the number of voters voting  
10 "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number  
11 equal to forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such  
12 taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number  
13 of voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of  
14 the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last  
15 preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths  
16 of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to levy  
17 when the number of voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty  
18 percent of the number of voters voting in such taxing district in the  
19 last preceding general election: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any  
20 other provision of this Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this  
21 subsection to levy additional tax for the support of the common schools  
22 or fire protection districts may provide such support for a period of  
23 up to four years and any proposition to levy an additional tax to  
24 support the construction, modernization, or remodelling of school  
25 facilities or fire facilities may provide such support for a period not  
26 exceeding six years;

27 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue  
28 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of  
29 making the required payments of principal and interest on general  
30 obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the  
31 replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at  
32 least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the  
33 proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest  
34 thereon by annual tax levies in excess of the limitation herein  
35 provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than  
36 twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided  
37 by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election  
38 the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall constitute

1 not less than forty percent of the total number of voters voting in  
2 such taxing district at the last preceding general election: *Provided*,  
3 That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its  
4 governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district  
5 issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest  
6 thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax  
7 limitation provided for herein(( $\tau$ )): *Provided further, That a*  
8 *proposition by a school district to issue bonds, and to pay the*  
9 *principal and interest on the bonds by an annual tax levy during the*  
10 *term of the bonds in excess of the limitation provided in this section,*  
11 *shall be authorized by a majority of the voters voting on the*  
12 *proposition:* *And provided further, That the provisions of this section*  
13 *shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII,*  
14 *Section 6, of this Constitution;*

15 (c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of  
16 preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered  
17 so to do by a court of last resort.

18 Article VIII, section 6. No county, city, town, school district,  
19 or other municipal corporation shall for any purpose become indebted in  
20 any manner to an amount exceeding one and one-half per centum of the  
21 taxable property in such county, city, town, school district, or other  
22 municipal corporation, without the assent of three-fifths of the voters  
23 therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose, nor in cases  
24 requiring such assent shall the total indebtedness at any time exceed  
25 five per centum on the value of the taxable property therein, to be  
26 ascertained by the last assessment for state and county purposes  
27 previous to the incurring of such indebtedness, except that in  
28 incorporated cities the assessment shall be taken from the last  
29 assessment for city purposes: *Provided, That the assent necessary to*  
30 *authorize a school district to incur such debt shall be a majority vote*  
31 *of those voting on the proposition:* *Provided further, That no part of*  
32 *the indebtedness allowed in this section shall be incurred for any*  
33 *purpose other than strictly county, city, town, school district, or*  
34 *other municipal purposes:* *Provided further, That (a) any city or town,*  
35 *with such assent, may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount,*  
36 *but not exceeding five per centum additional for supplying such city or*  
37 *town with water, artificial light, and sewers, when the works for*  
38 *supplying such water, light, and sewers shall be owned and controlled*

1 by the municipality and (b) any school district with ((~~such~~)) majority  
2 assent, may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount but not  
3 exceeding five per centum additional for capital outlays.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause  
5 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four  
6 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal  
7 newspaper in the state; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing amendment shall be  
9 construed as a single amendment within the meaning of Article XXIII,  
10 section 1 of the state Constitution.

11 The legislature finds that the changes contained in the foregoing  
12 amendment constitute a single integrated plan providing for a simple  
13 majority of voters voting to authorize school district levies and  
14 bonds. If the foregoing amendment is held to be separate amendments,  
15 this joint resolution shall be void in its entirety and shall be of no  
16 further force and effect.

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