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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8228

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Senators Rockefeller, Haugen, Oemig, Shin, Kilmer, Sheldon,  
McAuliffe, and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/01/08. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

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 word "property" as used herein shall mean and  
13 include everything, whether tangible or intangible, subject to  
14 ownership. All real estate shall constitute one class: Provided, That  
15 the legislature may tax mines and mineral resources and lands devoted  
16 to reforestation by either a yield tax or an ad valorem tax at such  
17 rate as it may fix, or by both. The legislature may provide a method  
18 or methods of limiting increases in taxation of real estate, under  
19 definitions, conditions, and restrictions deemed proper by the

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

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

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