
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8217

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 2nd Special Session

By Senators Stevens, Carrell, Becker, Swecker, Schoesler, Holmquist
Newbry, Padden, and Benton

Read first time 12/01/11. 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. Any legislation that
10 increases an existing tax or creates a new tax must expire no later
11 than five years from the effective date of the tax increase or
12 creation. All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property
13 within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax and
14 shall be levied and collected for public purposes only. The word
15 "property" as used herein shall mean and include everything, whether
16 tangible or intangible, subject to ownership. All real estate shall
17 constitute one class: Provided, That the legislature may tax mines and
18 mineral resources and lands devoted to reforestation by either a yield
19 tax or an ad valorem tax at such rate as it may fix, or by both. Such

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

--- END ---