

By Representative Harrington

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House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article VII and the creation of Section 26 of Article XII of the State Constitution relating to a limitation on legislative power to impose or increase taxes.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the following amendment to Section 1 of Article VII and the creation of Section 26 of Article XII of the State Constitution are agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of Florida for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE VII  
FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 1. Taxation; appropriations; state expenses; state revenue limitation.--

(a) No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of law. No state ad valorem taxes shall be levied upon real estate or tangible personal property. All other forms of taxation shall be preempted to the state except as provided by general law.

(b) Motor vehicles, boats, airplanes, trailers, trailer coaches and mobile homes, as defined by law, shall be subject to a license tax for their operation in the amounts and for the purposes prescribed by law, but shall not be subject to ad valorem taxes.

1 (c) No money shall be drawn from the treasury except  
2 in pursuance of appropriation made by law.

3 (d) Provision shall be made by law for raising  
4 sufficient revenue to defray the expenses of the state for  
5 each fiscal period. However, a law enacted after January 1,  
6 2001, may not impose a tax, expand the base of a tax, increase  
7 the rate of a tax, or repeal an exemption from a tax unless  
8 the law is enacted in a separate bill for that purpose only by  
9 a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the  
10 legislature.

11 (e) Except as provided herein, state revenues  
12 collected for any fiscal year shall be limited to state  
13 revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal  
14 year plus an adjustment for growth. As used in this  
15 subsection, "growth" means an amount equal to the average  
16 annual rate of growth in Florida personal income over the most  
17 recent twenty quarters times the state revenues allowed under  
18 this subsection for the prior fiscal year. For the 1995-1996  
19 fiscal year, the state revenues allowed under this subsection  
20 for the prior fiscal year shall equal the state revenues  
21 collected for the 1994-1995 fiscal year. Florida personal  
22 income shall be determined by the legislature, from  
23 information available from the United States Department of  
24 Commerce or its successor on the first day of February prior  
25 to the beginning of the fiscal year. State revenues collected  
26 for any fiscal year in excess of this limitation shall be  
27 transferred to the budget stabilization fund until the fund  
28 reaches the maximum balance specified in Section 19(g) of  
29 Article III, and thereafter shall be refunded to taxpayers as  
30 provided by general law. State revenues allowed under this  
31 subsection for any fiscal year may be increased by a

1 two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the  
2 legislature in a separate bill that contains no other subject  
3 and that sets forth the dollar amount by which the state  
4 revenues allowed will be increased. The vote may not be taken  
5 less than seventy-two hours after the third reading of the  
6 bill. For purposes of this subsection, "state revenues" means  
7 taxes, fees, licenses, and charges for services imposed by the  
8 legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside  
9 state government. However, "state revenues" does not include:  
10 revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth  
11 in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds by the state;  
12 revenues that are used to provide matching funds for the  
13 federal Medicaid program with the exception of the revenues  
14 used to support the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund or  
15 its successor program and with the exception of state matching  
16 funds used to fund elective expansions made after July 1,  
17 1994; proceeds from the state lottery returned as prizes;  
18 receipts of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund; balances  
19 carried forward from prior fiscal years; taxes, licenses,  
20 fees, and charges for services imposed by local, regional, or  
21 school district governing bodies; or revenue from taxes,  
22 licenses, fees, and charges for services required to be  
23 imposed by any amendment or revision to this constitution  
24 after July 1, 1994. An adjustment to the revenue limitation  
25 shall be made by general law to reflect the fiscal impact of  
26 transfers of responsibility for the funding of governmental  
27 functions between the state and other levels of government.  
28 The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe procedures  
29 necessary to administer this subsection.

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ARTICLE XII

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SCHEDULE

SECTION 26. Limitation on imposition of taxes.--The amendment to Section 1(d) of Article VII limiting the imposition or increase of taxes by the legislature shall take effect January 1, 2001.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be placed on the ballot:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1; ARTICLE XII, SECTION 26  
LIMITATION ON IMPOSITION OF TAXES, INCREASES IN TAX RATES, AND REPEAL OF TAX EXEMPTIONS.--Requires that, effective January 1, 2001, any law that imposes a tax, expands a tax base, increases a tax rate, or repeals a tax exemption be enacted in a separate bill by a three-fifths vote of each house of the Legislature.