

By Senator Bennett

21-244-06

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 4 of Article VII of the State Constitution to provide an additional circumstance for assessing homestead property at less than just value.

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

That the following amendment to Section 4 of Article VII of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state 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 4. Taxation; assessments.--By general law regulations shall be prescribed which shall secure a just valuation of all property for ad valorem taxation, provided:

(a) Agricultural land, land producing high water recharge to Florida's aquifers, or land used exclusively for noncommercial recreational purposes may be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.

(b) Pursuant to general law tangible personal property held for sale as stock in trade and livestock may be valued for taxation at a specified percentage of its value, may be classified for tax purposes, or may be exempted from taxation.

(c) All persons entitled to a homestead exemption under Section 6 of this Article shall have their homestead

1 assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year following  
2 the effective date of this amendment. This assessment shall  
3 change only as provided herein.

4 (1) Assessments subject to this provision shall be  
5 changed annually on January 1st of each year; but those  
6 changes in assessments shall not exceed the lower of the  
7 following:

8 a. Three percent (3%) of the assessment for the prior  
9 year.

10 b. The percent change in the Consumer Price Index for  
11 all urban consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or  
12 successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially  
13 reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of  
14 Labor Statistics.

15 (2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

16 (3) After any change of ownership, as provided by  
17 general law, homestead property shall be assessed at just  
18 value as of January 1 of the following year, unless the  
19 provisions of paragraph (8) apply. Thereafter, the homestead  
20 shall be assessed as provided herein.

21 (4) New homestead property shall be assessed at just  
22 value as of January 1st of the year following the  
23 establishment of the homestead, unless the provisions of  
24 paragraph (8) apply. That assessment shall only change as  
25 provided herein.

26 (5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to  
27 homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by  
28 general law; provided, however, after the adjustment for any  
29 change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property  
30 shall be assessed as provided herein.

31

1           (6) In the event of a termination of homestead status,  
2 the property shall be assessed as provided by general law.

3           (7) The provisions of this amendment are severable. If  
4 any of the provisions of this amendment shall be held  
5 unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the  
6 decision of such court shall not affect or impair any  
7 remaining provisions of this amendment.

8           (8) When a person sells his or her homestead property  
9 within this state and within one year purchases another  
10 property and establishes such property as homestead property,  
11 the newly established homestead property shall be initially  
12 assessed at less than just value, as provided by general law.  
13 The difference between the new homestead property's just value  
14 and its assessed value in the first year the homestead is  
15 established may not exceed the difference between the previous  
16 homestead's just value and its assessed value in the year of  
17 sale. In addition, to be assessed as provided in this  
18 paragraph, the assessed value of the new homestead must equal  
19 or exceed the assessed value of the previous homestead.  
20 Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided  
21 herein.

22           (d) The legislature may, by general law, for  
23 assessment purposes and subject to the provisions of this  
24 subsection, allow counties and municipalities to authorize by  
25 ordinance that historic property may be assessed solely on the  
26 basis of character or use. Such character or use assessment  
27 shall apply only to the jurisdiction adopting the ordinance.  
28 The requirements for eligible properties must be specified by  
29 general law.

30           (e) A county may, in the manner prescribed by general  
31 law, provide for a reduction in the assessed value of

1 | homestead property to the extent of any increase in the  
2 | assessed value of that property which results from the  
3 | construction or reconstruction of the property for the purpose  
4 | of providing living quarters for one or more natural or  
5 | adoptive grandparents or parents of the owner of the property  
6 | or of the owner's spouse if at least one of the grandparents  
7 | or parents for whom the living quarters are provided is 62  
8 | years of age or older. Such a reduction may not exceed the  
9 | lesser of the following:

10 |         (1) The increase in assessed value resulting from  
11 | construction or reconstruction of the property.

12 |         (2) Twenty percent of the total assessed value of the  
13 | property as improved.

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

16 |                                 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

17 |                                 ARTICLE VII, SECTION 4

18 |         TAXATION; HOMESTEAD PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS.--Proposing an  
19 | amendment to the State Constitution to provide for assessing  
20 | at less than just value property purchased within 1 year after  
21 | the sale of homestead property if the new property is  
22 | established as homestead, to provide that the difference  
23 | between the new property's just value and its assessed value  
24 | in that first year may not exceed the difference between the  
25 | previous homestead's just value and its assessed value in the  
26 | year of sale, and to provide that the assessed value of the  
27 | new homestead must equal or exceed the assessed value of the  
28 | previous homestead.

29 |  
30 |  
31 |