

House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 6 of Article VII of the State Constitution to increase the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for all levies.

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

That the following amendment to Section 6 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 6. Homestead exemptions.--

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entirety, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years.

29 (b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any  
 30 individual or family unit or with respect to any residential  
 31 unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate  
 32 assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock  
 33 or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion  
 34 which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed  
 35 value of the property.

36 (c) By general law and subject to conditions specified  
 37 therein, the exemption shall be increased to a total of fifty  
 38 ~~twenty-five~~ thousand dollars of the assessed value of the real  
 39 estate for each school district levy. By general law and subject  
 40 to conditions specified therein, the exemption for all other  
 41 levies may be increased up to an amount not exceeding ten  
 42 thousand dollars of the assessed value of the real estate if the  
 43 owner has attained age sixty-five or is totally and permanently  
 44 disabled and if the owner is not entitled to the exemption  
 45 provided in subsection (d).

46 (d) By general law and subject to conditions specified  
 47 therein, the exemption shall be increased to a total of fifty  
 48 thousand dollars ~~the following amounts~~ of the assessed value of  
 49 the real estate for each levy other than those of school  
 50 districts: ~~fifteen thousand dollars with respect to 1980~~  
 51 ~~assessments; twenty thousand dollars with respect to 1981~~  
 52 ~~assessments; twenty-five thousand dollars with respect to~~  
 53 ~~assessments for 1982 and each year thereafter.~~ However, such  
 54 increase shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll  
 55 until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the  
 56 provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general

57 law. This subsection shall stand repealed on the effective date  
 58 of any amendment to section 4 which provides for the assessment  
 59 of homestead property at a specified percentage of its just  
 60 value.

61 (e) By general law and subject to conditions specified  
 62 therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are  
 63 permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax  
 64 levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and  
 65 amount established by general law.

66 (f) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or  
 67 municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies  
 68 and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an  
 69 additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding twenty-five  
 70 thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable  
 71 title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent  
 72 residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and  
 73 whose household income, as defined by general law, does not  
 74 exceed twenty thousand dollars. The general law must allow  
 75 counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption,  
 76 within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance  
 77 adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must  
 78 provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation  
 79 prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

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

82 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

83 ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6

84 INCREASED HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.--Proposing an amendment to

HJR 353

2006

85 | the State Constitution to increase the homestead exemption from  
86 | \$25,000 to \$50,000 for all levies, school districts or  
87 | otherwise.