

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Local Government Council recommends the following:

2  
3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 House Joint Resolution

6 A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 6 of  
7 Article VII and the creation of Section 26 of Article XII  
8 of the State Constitution to provide for a phased increase  
9 in the homestead exemption over 5 years from \$25,000 to  
10 \$50,000 for all levies, increase the maximum additional  
11 homestead exemption for low-income seniors from \$25,000 to  
12 \$50,000, and schedule the amendment to take effect January  
13 1, 2007, if adopted.

14  
15 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
17 That the following amendment to Section 6 of Article VII  
18 and the creation of Section 26 of Article XII of the State  
19 Constitution are agreed to and shall be submitted to the  
20 electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next  
21 general election or at an earlier special election specifically  
22 authorized by law for that purpose:

23 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.

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

(c) (1) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the exemption shall be increased to a total of the following amounts ~~twenty five thousand dollars~~ of the assessed value of the real estate for each school district levy: thirty thousand dollars with respect to 2007 assessments; thirty-five thousand dollars with respect to 2008 assessments; forty thousand dollars with respect to 2009 assessments; forty-five

52 | thousand dollars with respect to 2010 assessments; and fifty  
 53 | thousand dollars with respect to 2011 assessments. In 2012 and  
 54 | each year thereafter, the exemption shall increase annually by  
 55 | the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for all urban  
 56 | consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor  
 57 | reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by  
 58 | the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor  
 59 | Statistics.

60 |       (2) By general law and subject to conditions specified  
 61 | therein, the exemption for all other levies may be increased up  
 62 | to an amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars of the assessed  
 63 | value of the real estate if the owner has attained age sixty-  
 64 | five or is totally and permanently disabled and if the owner is  
 65 | not entitled to the exemption provided in subsection (d).

66 |       (d) By general law and subject to conditions specified  
 67 | therein, the exemption shall be increased to a total of the  
 68 | following amounts of assessed value of real estate for each levy  
 69 | other than those of school districts: thirty fifteen thousand  
 70 | dollars with respect to 2007 ~~1980~~ assessments; thirty-five  
 71 | ~~twenty~~ thousand dollars with respect to 2008 ~~1981~~ assessments;  
 72 | forty ~~twenty-five~~ thousand dollars with respect to 2009  
 73 | assessments; forty-five thousand dollars with respect to 2010  
 74 | assessments; and fifty thousand dollars with respect to 2011  
 75 | assessments. In 2012 ~~for 1982~~ and each year thereafter, the  
 76 | exemption shall increase annually by the percentage change in  
 77 | the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, U.S. City  
 78 | Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the  
 79 | preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United

80 | States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. However,  
 81 | such increase shall not apply with respect to any assessment  
 82 | roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance  
 83 | with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by  
 84 | general law. This subsection shall stand repealed on the  
 85 | effective date of any amendment to section 4 which provides for  
 86 | the assessment of homestead property at a specified percentage  
 87 | of its just value.

88 | (e) By general law and subject to conditions specified  
 89 | therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are  
 90 | permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax  
 91 | levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and  
 92 | amount established by general law.

93 | (f) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or  
 94 | municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies  
 95 | and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an  
 96 | additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding fifty ~~twenty-~~  
 97 | ~~five~~ thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or  
 98 | equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the  
 99 | permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-  
 100 | five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does  
 101 | not exceed twenty thousand dollars. The general law must allow  
 102 | counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption,  
 103 | within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance  
 104 | adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must  
 105 | provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation  
 106 | prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

107 | ARTICLE XII

HJR 353 CS

2006  
CS

SCHEDULE

SECTION 26. Increased homestead exemption.--The amendment to Section 6 of Article VII, increasing the amount of the homestead exemption, shall take effect January 1, 2007.

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

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6

ARTICLE XII, SECTION 26

INCREASE IN HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.--Proposing amendment of the State Constitution to provide for a phased increase in the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000 over 5 years for all levies, school districts or otherwise; increase the maximum additional homestead exemption for low-income seniors from \$25,000 to \$50,000; and schedule the amendment to take effect January 1, 2007, if adopted.