

## 1 House Joint Resolution

2 A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 12 of  
3 Article X of the State Constitution; revising rules of  
4 construction to be used when interpreting the extent of  
5 political power vested in the legislative branch to  
6 provide that the expression of one thing does not imply  
7 the exclusion of another, unless absolutely necessary to  
8 carry out the purpose of the constitutional provision, and  
9 to provide that a limitation shall not be implied based on  
10 the comprehensiveness of the constitutional provision.

11  
12 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 That the following amendment to Section 12 of Article X of  
15 the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to  
16 the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next  
17 general election or at an earlier special election specifically  
18 authorized by law for that purpose:

## 19 ARTICLE X

## 20 MISCELLANEOUS

21 SECTION 12. Rules of construction.--Unless qualified in  
22 the text the following rules of construction shall apply to this  
23 constitution.

- 24 (a) "Herein" refers to the entire constitution.  
25 (b) The singular includes the plural.  
26 (c) The masculine includes the feminine.

27 (d) "Vote of the electors" means the vote of the majority  
 28 of those voting on the matter in an election, general or  
 29 special, in which those participating are limited to the  
 30 electors of the governmental unit referred to in the text.

31 (e) Vote or other action of a legislative house or other  
 32 governmental body means the vote or action of a majority or  
 33 other specified percentage of those members voting on the  
 34 matter. "Of the membership" means "of all members thereof."

35 (f) The terms "judicial office," "justices" and "judges"  
 36 shall not include judges of courts established solely for the  
 37 trial of violations of ordinances.

38 (g) "Special law" means a special or local law.

39 (h) Titles and subtitles shall not be used in  
 40 construction.

41 (i) In interpreting the extent of political power vested  
 42 in the legislative branch by the people:

43 (1) The expression of one thing does not imply the  
 44 exclusion of another, unless absolutely necessary to carry out  
 45 the purpose of the constitutional provision.

46 (2) A limitation shall not be implied based on the  
 47 comprehensiveness of the constitutional provision.

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

50 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

51 ARTICLE X, SECTION 12

52 RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.--Proposing an amendment to the State  
 53 Constitution to revise the rules of construction to be used when

54 interpreting the State Constitution. The revision provides that,  
55 when interpreting the extent of political power vested in the  
56 Legislature by the people, the expression of one thing does not  
57 imply the exclusion of another, unless absolutely necessary to  
58 carry out the purpose of the constitutional provision. After the  
59 revision takes effect, the general maxim "expressio unius est  
60 exclusio alterius," which stands for the proposition that the  
61 expression of one thing is the exclusion of another, could not  
62 be applied when interpreting the extent of political power  
63 vested in the Legislature by the people except when the  
64 exclusion is necessary to carry out the purpose of the  
65 constitutional provision. In addition, the revision provides  
66 that when interpreting the extent of political power vested in  
67 the Legislature by the people, a limitation shall not be implied  
68 based on the comprehensiveness of the constitutional provision.