

2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 24

- March 9, 2009 Introduced by Representatives Soletski, Garthwaite, Benedict, BERCEAU, BLACK, CLARK, FIELDS, HEBL, HILGENBERG, MILROY, MOLEPSKE JR., PARISI, POCAN, POPE-ROBERTS, SMITH, STASKUNAS, TURNER, ZEPNICK, ZIGMUNT and GRIGSBY, cosponsored by Senators HANSEN, WIRCH, CARPENTER, DECKER, ERPENBACH, LASSA, LEHMAN, PLALE and RISSER. Referred to Committee on State Affairs and Homeland Security.
- *To amend* section 1 of article VIII; and *to create* section 1 (1) (e) of article VIII of
 the constitution; relating to: providing property tax relief from school district
 property taxes to persons who have their principal dwelling in this state (first
 consideration).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This proposed constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2009 legislature on first consideration, excepts from the requirement of the "uniformity clause" a property tax exemption from school district property taxes that is provided to individuals who own property in this state that the individual uses as his or her principal dwelling. The exemption applies only to the first \$60,000, as adjusted by the annual change in inflation, of the property's fair market value.

The general statement of the Wisconsin Constitution that the "rule of taxation shall be uniform" is subject to other exceptions: real estate taxes may be collected in more than one way, and forests, minerals, agricultural land, undeveloped land, and certain kinds of personal property may be taxed differently than is other property.

In addition to the substantive changes, this joint resolution makes stylistic changes and breaks section 1 of the constitution into subsections to facilitate future amendments and to avoid conflicts if other amendments to the section are proposed.

A constitutional amendment requires adoption by two successive legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it can become effective.

1	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That:
2	SECTION 1. Section 1 of article VIII of the constitution is amended to read:
3	[Article VIII] Section 1 (1) The rule of taxation shall be uniform but the except
4	as follows:
5	(a) The legislature may empower by law authorize cities, villages, or towns to
6	collect and return taxes on real estate located therein by optional methods.
7	(b) Taxes shall be levied upon such property with such classifications as to
8	forests and minerals including or separate or severed from the land, as the
9	legislature shall prescribe. <u>prescribes by law.</u>
10	(c) Taxation of agricultural land and undeveloped land, both as defined by law,
11	need not be uniform with the taxation of each other nor with the taxation of other real
12	property.
13	(d) Taxation of merchants' stock-in-trade, manufacturers' materials and
14	finished products, and livestock need not be uniform with the taxation of real
15	property and other personal property, but the taxation of all such merchants'
16	stock-in-trade, manufacturers' materials and finished products, and livestock shall
17	be uniform, except that the legislature may provide <u>by law</u> that the value thereof
18	shall be determined on an average basis. Taxes may also be imposed
19	(2) The legislature may by law impose taxes on incomes, privileges, and
20	occupations, which taxes may be graduated and progressive, and reasonable
21	exemptions may be provided.

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SECTION 2. Section 1 (1) (e) of article VIII of the constitution is created to read:

1 [Article VIII] Section 1 (1) (e) The legislature shall provide by law a property 2 tax exemption from property taxes imposed by school districts for property that is 3 used by the property owner as his or her principal dwelling. The property tax 4 exemption shall apply only to the first \$60,000, as adjusted by the annual change in 5 inflation, of the property's fair market value.

6 **SECTION 3.** Numbering of new provisions. (1) The new paragraph (e) of 7 subsection (1) of section 1 of article VIII of the constitution created in this joint 8 resolution shall be designated by the next higher open whole paragraph letter in that 9 subsection in that section in that article if, before the ratification by the people of the 10 amendment proposed in this joint resolution, any other ratified amendment has 11 created a paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 1 of article VIII of the constitution 12of this state. If one or more joint resolutions create a paragraph (e) of subsection (1) 13 of section 1 of article VIII simultaneously with the ratification by the people of the 14 amendment proposed in this joint resolution, the paragraphs created shall be 15lettered and placed in a sequence so that the paragraphs created by the joint 16 resolution having the lowest enrolled joint resolution number have the letters 17designated in that joint resolution and the paragraphs created by the other joint 18 resolutions have letters that are in the same ascending order as are the letters of the 19 enrolled joint resolutions creating the paragraphs.

20 **Be it further resolved, That** this proposed amendment be referred to the 21 legislature to be chosen at the next general election and that it be published for 3 22 months previous to the time of holding such election.

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(END)