

By: Turner of Harris

H.J.R. No. 17

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the governing  
2 body of a political subdivision to adopt a local option residence  
3 homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion,  
4 expressed as a dollar amount, of the market value of an individual's  
5 residence homestead.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

7 SECTION 1. Section 1-b(e), Article VIII, Texas  
8 Constitution, is amended to read as follows:

9 (e) The governing body of a political subdivision[~~, other~~  
10 ~~than a county education district,~~] may exempt from ad valorem  
11 taxation a percentage of the market value of the residence  
12 homestead of a married or unmarried adult, including one living  
13 alone. [~~In the manner provided by law, the voters of a county~~  
14 ~~education district at an election held for that purpose may exempt~~  
15 ~~from ad valorem taxation a percentage of the market value of the~~  
16 ~~residence homestead of a married or unmarried adult, including one~~  
17 ~~living alone.~~] The percentage may not exceed twenty percent.  
18 However, the amount of a percentage [~~an~~] exemption authorized  
19 pursuant to this subsection may not be less than [~~Five Thousand~~  
20 ~~Dollars~~ (~~+~~)\$5,000(~~+~~)] unless the legislature by general law  
21 prescribes other monetary restrictions on the amount of the  
22 exemption. As an alternative, the governing body of the political  
23 subdivision may exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion,  
24 expressed as a dollar amount, of the market value of the residence

1 homestead of a married or unmarried adult, including one living  
2 alone. The amount of the alternative exemption may not be less than  
3 \$5,000. An eligible adult is entitled to receive other applicable  
4 exemptions provided by law. Where ad valorem tax has previously  
5 been pledged for the payment of debt, the governing body of a  
6 political subdivision may continue to levy and collect the tax  
7 against the value of the homesteads exempted under this subsection  
8 until the debt is discharged if the cessation of the levy would  
9 impair the obligation of the contract by which the debt was created.  
10 The legislature by general law may prescribe procedures for the  
11 administration of residence homestead exemptions. The legislature  
12 may not provide formulas to protect a school district against all or  
13 part of the revenue loss incurred by the school district that  
14 results from the adoption by the governing body of the school  
15 district of the alternative exemption under this subsection.

16 SECTION 2. The following temporary provision is added to  
17 the Texas Constitution:

18 TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies  
19 to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 84th Legislature,  
20 Regular Session, 2015, authorizing the governing body of a  
21 political subdivision to adopt a local option residence homestead  
22 exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion, expressed as a  
23 dollar amount, of the market value of an individual's residence  
24 homestead.

25 (b) The amendment to Section 1-b(e), Article VIII, of this  
26 constitution takes effect beginning with the tax year that begins  
27 January 1, 2016.

1        (c) This temporary provision expires January 1, 2017.

2        SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be  
3 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2015.  
4 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the  
5 proposition: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the  
6 governing body of a political subdivision to adopt a local option  
7 residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation of a  
8 portion, expressed as a dollar amount, of the market value of an  
9 individual's residence homestead."