

By: Watson
(Rodriguez of Travis)

S.J.R. No. 20

Substitute the following for S.J.R. No. 20:

By: Martinez Fischer

C.S.S.J.R. No. 20

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the governing
2 body of a political subdivision other than a school district to
3 adopt an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion, expressed
4 as a dollar amount, of the market value of an individual's residence
5 homestead and authorizing the legislature to prohibit the governing
6 body of any political subdivision that adopts an exemption from ad
7 valorem taxation of a portion, expressed as a percentage or a dollar
8 amount, of the market value of an individual's residence homestead
9 from reducing the amount of or repealing the exemption.

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

11 SECTION 1. Section 1-b, Article VIII, Texas Constitution,
12 is amended by adding Subsections (n), (o), and (p) to read as
13 follows:

14 (n) The governing body of a political subdivision other than
15 a school district by official action may exempt from ad valorem
16 taxation a portion of the market value of the residence homestead of
17 an individual. The amount of the exemption is \$5,000, except that
18 if the average market value of residence homesteads in the
19 political subdivision in the tax year in which the exemption is
20 adopted exceeds \$25,000, the governing body may authorize an
21 exemption in a larger dollar amount not to exceed an amount equal to
22 20 percent of the average market value of residence homesteads in
23 the political subdivision in the tax year in which the exemption is
24 adopted. The legislature by general law shall specify the method

1 for computing the average market value of residence homesteads for
2 purposes of this subsection. Where ad valorem tax has previously
3 been pledged for the payment of debt, the governing body may
4 continue to levy and collect the tax against the value of the
5 homesteads exempted under this subsection until the debt is
6 discharged if the cessation of the levy would impair the obligation
7 of the contract by which the debt was created.

8 (o) The legislature by general law may prohibit the
9 governing body of any political subdivision that adopts an
10 exemption under Subsection (e) or (n) of this section from reducing
11 the amount of or repealing the exemption.

12 (p) This subsection applies only to a political subdivision
13 the governing body of which has ceased granting an exemption under
14 Subsection (e) of this section, if doing so is not prohibited by the
15 legislature by general law, and has adopted an exemption under
16 Subsection (n) of this section. An individual who would have been
17 entitled to an exemption from ad valorem taxation by the political
18 subdivision under Subsection (e) of this section had the governing
19 body not ceased granting an exemption under that subsection is
20 entitled to continue to receive an exemption under that subsection
21 in lieu of the exemption under Subsection (n) of this section if the
22 individual otherwise qualifies for the exemption under Subsection
23 (e) of this section and the amount of the exemption under that
24 subsection exceeds the amount of the exemption under Subsection (n)
25 of this section. The exemption applies only to property for which
26 the individual received an exemption under Subsection (e) of this
27 section in the last tax year in which the governing body granted an

1 exemption under that subsection. The exemption expires in the event
2 of a change in ownership of the property or, if the property is
3 owned by a trust and the trustor of the trust or a beneficiary of the
4 trust has the right to use and occupy the property as the trustor's
5 or beneficiary's principal residential property, there is a change
6 in the trustor or beneficiary of the trust, respectively.

7 SECTION 2. The following temporary provision is added to
8 the Texas Constitution:

9 TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies
10 to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 84th Legislature,
11 Regular Session, 2015, authorizing the governing body of a
12 political subdivision other than a school district to adopt an
13 exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion, expressed as a
14 dollar amount, of the market value of an individual's residence
15 homestead and authorizing the legislature to prohibit the governing
16 body of any political subdivision that adopts an exemption from ad
17 valorem taxation of a portion, expressed as a percentage or a dollar
18 amount, of the market value of an individual's residence homestead
19 from reducing the amount of or repealing the exemption.

20 (b) The amendments to Section 1-b, Article VIII, of this
21 constitution take effect beginning with the tax year that begins
22 January 1, 2016.

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

24 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
25 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2015.
26 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
27 proposition: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the

1 governing body of a political subdivision other than a school
2 district to adopt an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a
3 portion, expressed as a dollar amount, of the market value of an
4 individual's residence homestead and authorizing the legislature
5 to prohibit the governing body of any political subdivision that
6 adopts an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion,
7 expressed as a percentage or a dollar amount, of the market value of
8 an individual's residence homestead from reducing the amount of or
9 repealing the exemption."