86R10390 SMT-D

By:  Kacal H.J.R. No. 89

A JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of the residence homesteads of certain volunteer first responders.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 1-b, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, is amended by adding Subsection (r) to read as follows:

(r)  The governing body of a political subdivision may exempt from ad valorem taxation an amount not to exceed $15,000 of the appraised value of the residence homestead of a volunteer first responder. Where ad valorem tax of a political subdivision has previously been pledged for the payment of debt, the taxing officers of the political subdivision may continue to levy and collect the tax against the value of residence homesteads exempted under this subsection until the debt is discharged if the cessation of the levy would impair the obligation of the contract by which the debt was created. The legislature by general law may define "volunteer first responder" for purposes of this subsection and may provide additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

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

TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, to authorize a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a taxing unit of a portion of the appraised value of the residence homestead of a volunteer first responder.

(b)  The amendment to Section 1-b, Article VIII, of this constitution takes effect January 1, 2020, and applies only to ad valorem taxes imposed for a tax year beginning on or after that date.

(c)  This temporary provision expires January 1, 2021.

SECTION 3.  This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 5, 2019. The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment to authorize a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation of an amount not to exceed $15,000 of the appraised value of the residence homesteads of certain volunteer first responders."