By:  Bettencourt, et al. S.J.R. No. 2

(In the Senate - Filed February 6, 2025; February 7, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government; February 11, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; February 11, 2025, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                 Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Bettencourt       X

Middleton         X

Cook              X

Gutierrez         X

Nichols           X

Paxton            X

West              X

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district.

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

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

(c)  The amount of $140,000 [~~$100,000~~] of the market value of the residence homestead of a married or unmarried adult, including one living alone, is exempt from ad valorem taxation for general elementary and secondary public school purposes. The legislature by general law may provide that all or part of the exemption does not apply to a district or political subdivision that imposes ad valorem taxes for public education purposes but is not the principal school district providing general elementary and secondary public education throughout its territory. In addition to this exemption, the legislature by general law may exempt an amount not to exceed $10,000 of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is disabled as defined in Subsection (b) of this section and of a person 65 years of age or older from ad valorem taxation for general elementary and secondary public school purposes. The legislature by general law may base the amount of and condition eligibility for the additional exemption authorized by this subsection for disabled persons and for persons 65 years of age or older on economic need. An eligible disabled person who is 65 years of age or older may not receive both exemptions from a school district but may choose either. An eligible person is entitled to receive both the exemption required by this subsection for all residence homesteads and any exemption adopted pursuant to Subsection (b) of this section, but the legislature shall provide by general law whether an eligible disabled or elderly person may receive both the additional exemption for the elderly and disabled authorized by this subsection and any exemption for the elderly or disabled adopted pursuant to Subsection (b) of this section. Where ad valorem tax has previously been pledged for the payment of debt, the taxing officers of a school district may continue to levy and collect the tax against the value of 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 shall provide for formulas to protect school districts against all or part of the revenue loss incurred by the implementation of this subsection, Subsection (d) of this section, and Section 1-d-1 of this article. The legislature by general law may define residence homestead for purposes of this section.

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 S.J.R. 2, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025.

(b)  The amendment to Section 1-b(c), Article VIII, of this constitution takes effect for the tax year beginning January 1, 2025.

(c)  This temporary provision expires January 1, 2027.

SECTION 3.  This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2025.  The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from $100,000 to $140,000."

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