

Committee Substitute for
Senate Joint Resolution No. 958

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article VII and the creation of Section 19 of Article VII and Section 32 of Article XII of the State Constitution to replace the existing state revenue limitation with a new state revenue limitation based on inflation and population changes.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the following amendment to Section 1 of Article VII and the creation of Section 19 of Article VII and Section 32 of Article XII of the State Constitution are agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE VII

FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 1. Taxation; appropriations; state expenses; ~~state revenue limitation.~~—

(a) No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of law. No state ad valorem taxes shall be levied upon real estate or tangible personal property. All other forms of taxation shall be preempted to the state except as provided by general law.

(b) Motor vehicles, boats, airplanes, trailers, trailer coaches and mobile homes, as defined by law, shall be subject to a license tax for their operation in the amounts and for the purposes prescribed by law, but shall not be subject to ad valorem taxes.

(c) No money shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of appropriation made by law.

(d) Provision shall be made by law for raising sufficient revenue to defray the expenses of the state for each fiscal period.

~~(e) Except as provided herein, state revenues collected for any fiscal year shall be limited to state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year plus an adjustment for growth. As used in this subsection, "growth" means an amount equal to the average annual rate of growth in Florida personal income over the most recent twenty quarters times the state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year. For the 1995-1996 fiscal year, the state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year shall equal the state revenues collected for the 1994-1995 fiscal year. Florida personal income shall be determined by the legislature, from information available from the United States Department of Commerce or its successor on the first day of February prior to the beginning of the fiscal~~

~~year. State revenues collected for any fiscal year in excess of this limitation shall be transferred to the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches the maximum balance specified in Section 19(g) of Article III, and thereafter shall be refunded to taxpayers as provided by general law. State revenues allowed under this subsection for any fiscal year may be increased by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature in a separate bill that contains no other subject and that sets forth the dollar amount by which the state revenues allowed will be increased. The vote may not be taken less than seventy-two hours after the third reading of the bill. For purposes of this subsection, "state revenues" means taxes, fees, licenses, and charges for services imposed by the legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside state government. However, "state revenues" does not include: revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds by the state; revenues that are used to provide matching funds for the federal Medicaid program with the exception of the revenues used to support the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund or its successor program and with the exception of state matching funds used to fund elective expansions made after July 1, 1994; proceeds from the state lottery returned as prizes; receipts of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund; balances carried forward from prior fiscal years; taxes, licenses, fees, and charges for services imposed by local, regional, or school district governing bodies; or revenue from taxes, licenses, fees, and charges for services required to be imposed by any amendment or revision to this constitution after July 1, 1994. An adjustment to the revenue limitation shall be made by general law to reflect the fiscal impact of transfers of responsibility for the funding of governmental functions between the state and other levels of government. The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe procedures necessary to administer this subsection.~~

SECTION 19. State revenue limitation.—

(a) STATE REVENUE LIMITATION.—~~Except as provided in this section, state revenues collected in any fiscal year are limited as follows:~~

(1) For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenues collected during the 2013-2014 fiscal year multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus four one-hundredths.

(2) For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for fiscal year 2014-2015 multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus three one-hundredths.

(3) For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for fiscal year 2015-2016 multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus two one-hundredths.

(4) For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for fiscal year 2016-2017 multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus one one-hundredth.

(5) For the 2018-2019 fiscal year and thereafter, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for the previous fiscal year multiplied by the adjustment for growth.

(6) The adjustment for growth for a fiscal year shall be determined by March 1 preceding the fiscal year using the latest information available. Once the adjustment for growth is determined for a fiscal year, it may not be changed based on revisions to the information used to make the determination.

(b) REVENUES IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATION.—State revenues collected in any fiscal year in excess of the revenue limitation shall be transferred to the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches the maximum balance specified in Section 19(g) of Article III, and thereafter shall be used for the support and maintenance of public schools by reducing the minimum financial effort required from school districts for participation in a state-funded education finance program, or, if the minimum financial effort is no longer required, returned to taxpayers as provided by general law.

(c) AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE THE REVENUE LIMITATION.—

(1) The state revenue limitation for any fiscal year may be increased by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature. Unless otherwise provided by the bill increasing the revenue limitation, the increased revenue limitation enacted under this paragraph shall be used to determine the revenue limitation for future fiscal years.

(2) The state revenue limitation for any one fiscal year may be increased by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the legislature. Increases to the revenue limitation enacted under this paragraph must be disregarded when determining the revenue limitation in subsequent fiscal years.

(3) A bill increasing the revenue limitation may not contain any other subject and must set forth the dollar amount by which the state revenue limitation will be increased. The vote may not be taken less than seventy-two hours after the third reading in either house of the legislature of the bill in the form that will be presented to the governor.

(d) AUTHORITY OF THE ELECTORS TO INCREASE THE REVENUE LIMITATION.—The legislature may propose an increase in the state revenue limitation pursuant to a concurrent resolution enacted by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house. The proposed increase shall be submitted to the electors at the next general election held more than ninety days after the resolution is filed with the custodian of state records. However, the legislature may submit the proposed increase at an earlier special election held more than ninety days after it is filed with the custodian of state records pursuant to a law enacted by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the membership of each house of the legislature. The resolution must set

forth the dollar amount by which the state revenue limitation will be increased. Unless otherwise provided in the resolution, the increased revenue limitation shall be used to determine the revenue limitation for future fiscal years. The proposed increase shall take effect if it is approved by a vote of at least 60 percent of the electors voting on the matter.

(e) REVENUE LIMIT ADJUSTMENT BY THE LEGISLATURE.—The legislature shall provide by general law for adjustments to the state revenue limitation to reflect:

(1) The fiscal impact of transfers of responsibility for the funding of governmental functions between the state and other levels of government occurring after May 6, 2011; or

(2) The fiscal impact of a new federal mandate.

(f) GENERAL LAW IMPLEMENTATION.—The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe procedures necessary to administer this section.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(1) “Adjustment for growth” means an amount equal to the average for the previous five years of the product of the inflation factor and the population factor.

(2) “Inflation factor” means an amount equal to one plus the percent change in the calendar year annual average of the Consumer Price Index. The term “Consumer Price Index” means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. city average (not seasonally adjusted, current base for all items), as published by the United States Department of Labor. In the event the index ceases to exist, the legislature shall determine the successor index by general law.

(3) “Population factor” means an amount equal to one plus the percent change in population of the state as of April 1 compared to April 1 of the prior year. For purposes of calculating the annual rate of change in population, the state’s official population estimates shall be used.

(4) “State revenues” means taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for services imposed by the legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside state government. However, the term “state revenues” does not include: revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds by the state for bonds issued before July 1, 2012; revenues that are used to provide matching funds for the federal Medicaid program with the exception of the revenues used to support the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund or its successor program and with the exception of state matching funds used to fund optional expansions made after July 1, 1994; proceeds from the state lottery returned as prizes; receipts of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; receipts of public universities and colleges; balances carried forward from prior fiscal years; taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for

services imposed by local, regional, or school district governing bodies; or revenue from taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for services authorized by any amendment or revision to this constitution after May 6, 2011.

ARTICLE XII

SCHEDULE

SECTION 32. State revenue limitation.—The amendment to Section 1 and the creation of Section 19 of Article VII, revising the state revenue limitation, and this section take effect upon approval by the electors and apply beginning in the 2014-2015 state fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be placed on the ballot:

ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 1 and 19

ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

STATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE LIMITATION.—This proposed amendment to the State Constitution replaces the existing state revenue limitation based on Florida personal income growth with a new state revenue limitation based on inflation and population changes. Under the amendment, state revenues, as defined in the amendment, collected in excess of the revenue limitation must be deposited into the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches its maximum balance, and thereafter shall be used for the support and maintenance of public schools by reducing the minimum financial effort required from school districts for participation in a state-funded education finance program, or, if the minimum financial effort is no longer required, returned to the taxpayers. The Legislature may increase the state revenue limitation through a bill approved by a super majority vote of each house of the Legislature. The Legislature may also submit a proposed increase in the state revenue limitation to the voters. The Legislature must implement this proposed amendment by general law. The amendment will take effect upon approval by the electors and will first apply to the 2014-2015 state fiscal year.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 13, 2011.