ENROLLED

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 599

BY REPRESENTATIVES BEAULLIEU, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BOURRIAQUE, BRASS, BROWN, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, COX, CREWS, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, DUBUISSON, DUPLESSIS, ECHOLS, EDMONSTON, EMERSON, FERMENT, FISHER, FONTENOT, FREEMAN, GADBERRY, GAINES, GAROFALO, GLOVER, GOUDEAU, GREEN, HODGES, HOLLIS, HORTON, ILLG, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JORDAN, LACOMBE, LAFLEUR, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCKNIGHT, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MINCEY, NELSON, NEWELL, ORGERON, CHARLES OWEN, PIERRE, RISER, ROMERO, SCHEXNAYDER, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, ST. BLANC, STAGNI, STEFANSKI, TARVER, THOMPSON, TURNER, VILLIO, WHEAT, WRIGHT, AND ZERINGUE

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article VII, Section 21(K) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to ad valorem tax exemptions; to provide for an ad valorem tax exemption for certain veterans with disabilities; to provide for exemption amounts; to prohibit the loss of revenue associated with certain ad valorem tax exemptions impacting the calculation of millage rates by taxing authorities; to require taxing authorities to absorb the loss of revenue as a result of the exemptions; to prohibit the reappraisal and valuation of property for purposes of millage adjustment under certain circumstances; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article VII, Section 21(K) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§21. Other Property Exemptions

Section 21. In addition to the homestead exemption provided for in Section 20 of this Article, the following property and no other shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation:

* * *

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.
(K)(1) On and after January 1, 2015, in addition to the homestead exemption authorized under the provisions of Article VII, Section 20 of this constitution, which applies to the first seven thousand five hundred dollars of the assessed valuation of property, the next seven thousand five hundred dollars of the assessed valuation of property receiving the homestead exemption that is owned and occupied by a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of one hundred percent unemployability or totally disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation. The surviving spouse of a deceased veteran with a service-connected disability rating of one hundred percent unemployability or totally disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs shall be eligible for this exemption if the surviving spouse occupies and remains the owner of the property, whether or not the exemption was in effect on the property prior to the death of the veteran. If property eligible for the exemption provided for in this Paragraph has an assessed value in excess of fifteen thousand dollars, ad valorem property taxes shall apply to the assessment in excess of fifteen thousand dollars.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary, the property assessment of a property for which this exemption has been claimed, to the extent of seven thousand five hundred dollars, shall not be treated as taxable property for purposes of any subsequent reappraisals and valuation for millage adjustment purposes under Article VII, Section 23(B) of this Constitution. The decrease in the total amount of ad valorem tax collected by a taxing authority as a result of the exemption shall be absorbed by the taxing authority and shall not create any additional tax liability for other taxpayers in the taxing district as a result of any subsequent reappraisal and valuation or millage adjustment. Implementation of the exemption authorized in this Paragraph shall neither trigger nor be cause for a reappraisal of property or an adjustment of millages pursuant to the provisions of Article VII, Section 23(B) of this constitution.

(3)(a) The exemption provided for in this Paragraph shall extend and apply in a parish only if it is established through an election that shall be called by either an ordinance or a resolution from the parish governing authority. The proposition
shall state that the exemption shall extend and apply in the parish and become
effective only after the question of its adoption has been approved by a majority of
the registered voters of the parish voting in an election held for that purpose:

(b) If a parish held an election as provided by this Subparagraph and the
electors approved the exemption prior to November 4, 2014, the parish may
implement the exemption as amended by the statewide electors on November 4,
2014, without holding an additional election:

(a) In addition to the homestead exemption authorized pursuant to the
provisions of Article VII, Section 20 of this constitution, which applies to the first
seven thousand five hundred dollars of the assessed valuation of property, the next
two thousand five hundred dollars of the assessed valuation of property receiving the
homestead exemption that is owned and occupied by a veteran with a service-
connected disability rating of fifty percent or more but less than seventy percent by
the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, shall be exempt from ad valorem
taxation. The surviving spouse of a deceased veteran with a service-connected
disability rating of fifty percent or more but less than seventy percent by the United
States Department of Veterans Affairs shall be eligible for this exemption if the
surviving spouse occupies and remains the owner of the property, whether or not the
exemption was in effect on the property prior to the death of the veteran. If property
eligible for the exemption provided for in this Subsubparagraph has an assessed
value in excess of ten thousand dollars, ad valorem property taxes shall apply to the
assessment in excess of ten thousand dollars.

(b) In addition to the homestead exemption authorized pursuant to the
provisions of Article VII, Section 20 of this constitution, which applies to the first
seven thousand five hundred dollars of the assessed valuation of property, the next
four thousand five hundred dollars of the assessed valuation of property owned and
occupied by a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of seventy percent
or more but less than one hundred percent by the United States Department of
Veterans Affairs, shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation. The surviving spouse
of a deceased veteran with a service-connected disability rating of seventy percent

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or more but less than one hundred percent by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs shall be eligible for this exemption if the surviving spouse occupies and remains the owner of the property, whether or not the exemption was in effect on the property prior to the death of the veteran. If property eligible for the exemption provided for in this Subsubparagraph has an assessed value in excess of twelve thousand dollars, ad valorem property taxes shall apply to the assessment in excess of twelve thousand dollars.

(c) In addition to the homestead exemption authorized pursuant to the provisions of Article VII, Section 20 of this constitution, which applies to the first seven thousand five hundred dollars of the assessed valuation of property, the remaining assessed valuation of property receiving the homestead exemption that is owned and occupied by a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of one hundred percent unemployability or totally disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation. The surviving spouse of a deceased veteran with a service-connected disability rating of one hundred percent unemployability or totally disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs shall be eligible for this exemption if the surviving spouse occupies and remains the owner of the property, whether or not the exemption was in effect on the property prior to the death of the veteran.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary, the property assessment of a property for which an exemption established pursuant to this Paragraph has been claimed, to the extent of the applicable exemption, shall not be treated as taxable property for purposes of any subsequent reappraisals and valuation for millage adjustment purposes pursuant to Article VII, Section 23(B) of this constitution. The decrease in the total amount of ad valorem tax collected by a taxing authority as a result of the exemption shall be absorbed by the taxing authority and shall not create any additional tax liability for other taxpayers in the taxing district as a result of any subsequent reappraisal and valuation or millage adjustment. Implementation of the exemption authorized in this Paragraph shall neither trigger
nor be cause for a reappraisal of property or an adjustment of millages pursuant to

the provisions of Article VII, Section 23(B) of this constitution.

(4) (3) A trust shall be eligible for the exemption provided for in this

Paragraph as provided by law.

* * *

Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted
to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 8,
2022.

Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,
there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted
to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
follows:

Do you support an amendment to expand certain property tax exemptions for
property on which the homestead exemption is claimed for certain veterans
with disabilities? (Amends Article VII, Section 21(K))

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE