SLS 25RS-15 ENGROSSED

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 57

BY SENATOR FESI

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TAX EXEMPTIONS. Constitutional Amendment to remove the income limitation for persons age sixty-five or older that qualify for the special assessment level for residential property receiving the homestead exemption. (2/3-CA13s1(A)) (1/1/27)

A JOINT RESOLUTION

## 2 Proposing to amend Article VII, Section 18(G)(1)(a)(ii) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the special assessment level for ad valorem taxes; to provide for eligibility 3 for the special assessment level for residential property receiving the homestead 4 5 exemption; to remove income limitations for persons sixty-five or older; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot 6 7 proposition. 8 Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members 9 elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state, for 10 their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article VII, 11 Section 18(G)(1)(a)(ii) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows: §18. Ad Valorem Taxes 12 13 Section 18.(A) 14 (G) Special Assessment Level. 15 (1)(a)(i)(ii) Any person or persons shall be prohibited from receiving the special 16 17 assessment as provided in this Section if such person's or persons' adjusted gross

SLS 25RS-15

ENGROSSED
SB NO 57

income, as reported in the federal tax return for the year prior to the application for the special assessment, exceeds one hundred thousand dollars. For persons applying for the special assessment whose filing status is married filing separately, the adjusted gross income for purposes of this Section shall be determined by combining the adjusted gross income on both federal tax returns. Beginning for the tax year 2026, and for each tax year thereafter, the one hundred thousand dollar limit shall be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Government. The provisions of this Item shall not apply to persons sixty-five years of age or older.

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Section 2. Be it further resolved that the provisions of this amendment shall become effective January 1, 2027, and shall apply to all taxable years beginning on January 1, 2027. Section 3. 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 3, 2026.

Section 4. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at said 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 remove the income limitation for persons sixty-five or older that qualify for the special assessment level for residential property receiving the homestead exemption?

(Amends Article VII, Section 18(G)(1)(a)(ii))

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST 2025 Regular Session

SB 57 Engrossed

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<u>Present constitution</u> authorizes the imposition of ad valorem property taxes by local governing authorities. Further provides that certain property is exempt from ad valorem taxation, including the homestead exemption, which applies to the first \$7,500 of the

assessed valuation of the property.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution.

<u>Present constitution</u> provides that the assessment of residential property receiving the homestead exemption which is owned and occupied by certain enumerated persons shall not be increased above the total assessment of that property for the first year that the owner qualifies for and receives the special assessment level, provided that such person or persons remain qualified for and receive the special assessment level.

<u>Present constitution</u> provides that the special assessment level applies to:

- (1) People who are 65 or older.
- (2) People who have a service-connected disability rating of 50% or more by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.
- (3) Members of the armed forces of the U.S. or the La. National Guard who owned and last occupied the property who are killed in action, or who are missing in action or are a prisoner of war for a period exceeding 90 days.
- (4) Any person or persons permanently totally disabled as determined by a final non-appealable judgment of a court or as certified by a state or federal administrative agency charged with the responsibility for making determinations regarding disability.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution.

<u>Present constitution</u> prohibits a person from receiving the special assessment if the person's adjusted gross income, as reported in the federal tax return for the year prior to the application, exceeds \$100,000 and is adjusted each tax year based on the Consumer Price Index.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> retains <u>present constitution</u> but removes the income limitation for persons 65 or older that qualify for the special assessment level for residential property receiving the homestead exemption.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> is applicable to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

Proposed constitutional amendment is effective January 1, 2027.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 3, 2026.

(Amends Const. Art. VII, Sec. 18(G)(1)(a)(ii))

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

## <u>Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal</u> Affairs to the original bill

- 1. Changes effective date from January 1, 2026 to January 1, 2027.
- 2. Changes election date from November 15, 2025 to November 3, 2026.