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H.P. 697

House of Representatives, February 25, 2003

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Cap the Property Taxes of Homes That Have Been in the Same Family for 4 Generations

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. Mac Failand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative McNEIL of Rockland. (BY REQUEST) Cosponsored by Senator SAVAGE of Knox.

6 6. Annual cap on homes resided in by same family. The Legislature shall fix tax rates imposed by municipalities on real 8 property owned by members of the same family for at least 4 10 generations of that family. Property continues to be eligible for a fixed property tax rate if it is not subdivided or developed beyond the state in which it exists as of the tax cap. 12 14 : and be it further 16 Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective 18 date. Resolved: That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and 20 plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday 22 following the first Monday of November following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question: 24 26 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to cap the property tax imposed on real property that is owned by 28 members of the same family for at least 4 generations, as long as the property is not subdivided or developed?" 30 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall 32 vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, 34 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings 36 and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review 38 the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim 40 that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it 42 further Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved: 44 That the Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this resolution 46 necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

Constitution. Art. IX, §8. sub-§6 is enacted to read:

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SUMMARY

4 This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require the Legislature to enact a law that prohibits 6 municipalities from increasing property taxes on real property that is held by members of the same family for at least 4 8 generations of that family. Property that was later subdivided or developed would become ineligible for the tax cap.

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