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## DIGEST

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HB 300 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Mack

**Abstract:** Increases the income limit for qualifying for the special property tax assessment level from \$100,000, to be adjusted annually for inflation beginning in 2026, to \$150,000, to be adjusted annually for inflation beginning in 2028.

Present constitution provides that the assessment of residential property receiving the homestead exemption which is owned and occupied by persons meeting certain qualifications 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 authorized in present constitution.

Present constitution makes the special assessment level available to the following groups:

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

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution.

Present constitution limits eligibility for the special assessment level to people in the above-listed classes whose adjusted gross income is \$100,000 or less, with that income limit to be adjusted annually for inflation beginning with the 2026 tax year. Proposed constitutional amendment increases the income limit to \$150,000, with that limit to be adjusted annually for inflation beginning with the 2028 tax year. Authorizes assessors to establish applicants' income eligibility for the special assessment level by verifying their federal adjusted gross income as reported on the La. income tax return for the year prior to the application.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that a decrease in the total amount of ad valorem tax collected by a taxing authority as a result of the special assessment level 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. Provides further that implementation of the special assessment level shall not cause a reappraisal of property or an adjustment of millages.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 3, 2026.

Effective Jan. 1, 2027, and applicable to all tax years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2027.

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

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Ways and Means to the original bill:

1. Restore present constitution establishing an income limit for purposes of qualifying for the special assessment level and increase the limit from \$100,000 to \$150,000.
2. Restore present constitution requiring the income limit to be adjusted annually for inflation; provide that the \$150,000 limit shall be adjusted for inflation beginning in tax year 2028.
3. Require that a decrease in the total amount of ad valorem tax collected as a result of the special assessment level be absorbed by the taxing authority. Provide that implementation of the special assessment level shall not cause a reappraisal of property or an adjustment of millages.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide for a procedure by which assessors may establish applicants' income eligibility for the special assessment level.