
DIGEST

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HB 514 Original

2026 Regular Session

Farnum

Abstract: Authorizes an additional ad valorem tax exemption of up to \$240,000 of the assessed value of property owned by people 65 years of age and older if certain conditions are met.

Present law requires property subject to ad valorem taxes (property taxes) to be listed on the assessment rolls at its assessed value which is a percentage of its fair market value. Requires all property subject to property tax to be reappraised and valued at intervals of not more than four years.

Present constitution exempts from certain property taxes the first \$7,500 of the assessed valuation (\$75,000 of fair market value) of a homestead.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution and authorizes parishes and municipalities to extend an additional property tax exemption to property receiving the homestead exemption that is owned and occupied by a person 65 years of age or older who qualifies for the special assessment level. The amount of the exemption is as follows:

- (1) For a person aged 65 years of age but not yet 69 years of age, \$6,000 of the assessed valuation of the property (\$60,000 of fair market value).
- (2) For a person 69 years of age but not yet 73 years of age, \$12,000 of the assessed valuation of the property (\$120,000 of fair market value).
- (3) For a person 73 years of age but not yet 77 years of age, \$18,000 of the assessed valuation of the property (\$180,000 of fair market value).
- (4) For a person 77 years of age but not yet 81 years of age, \$24,000 of the assessed valuation of the property (\$240,000 of fair market value).
- (5) For a person 81 years of age and older, \$30,000 of the assessed valuation of the property (\$300,000 of fair market value).

Proposed constitutional amendment extends eligibility for the exemption to the property if the surviving spouse of an owner claiming the exemption continues to occupy and own or retain a usufruct on the property and is not more than five years younger than the owner.

Proposed constitutional amendment authorizes a parish or a municipality to implement the exemption, if it is approved by a majority of the electors of the parish or municipality voting at an

election called for the purpose of enacting the exemption.

Proposed constitutional amendment requires a taxing authority to absorb any decrease in the amount of property tax collected as a result of the exemption, prohibits creation of additional tax liability for other taxpayers as a result of subsequent reappraisal and valuation or millage adjustment, and clarifies that the implementation of the exemption is not cause for a reappraisal of property or an adjustment of millages.

Proposed constitutional amendment extends eligibility for the exemption to property in trust.

Effective Jan. 1, 2028, and applicable to all tax years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2028.

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

(Adds Const. Art. VII, §21(P))