HLS 17RS-746 ORIGINAL

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 125

19

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD

TAX/INCOME TAX: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides for the individual income tax to be levied at a flat rate

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION 2 Proposing to amend Article VII, Section 4(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to 3 individual income tax; to provide with respect to the rates and brackets for purposes 4 of calculating individual income taxes; to provide for the levy of a flat individual 5 income tax rate; to provide for applicability; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters. 6 7 Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members 8 elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of 9 Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to 10 amend Article VII, Section 4(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows: 11 §4. Income Tax; Severance Tax; Political Subdivisions 12 Section 4.(A) Income Tax. Equal and uniform taxes may be levied on net 13 incomes, and these taxes may be graduated according to the amount of net income. 14 However, the state individual and joint income tax schedule of rates and brackets 15 shall never exceed the rates and brackets set forth in Title 47 of the Louisiana 16 Revised Statutes on January 1, 2003 income tax rate shall be levied at a flat rate 17 which shall be established in law. Federal income taxes paid shall be allowed as a 18 deductible item in computing state income taxes for the same period.

1 Section 2. Be it further resolved that the provisions of the amendment contained in 2 this Joint Resolution shall become effective on January 1, 2018, and shall be applicable to 3 all tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2018. 4 Section 3. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted 5 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on October 14, 6 2017. 7 Section 4. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election. 8 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted 9 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as 10 follows: 11 Do you support an amendment to require the state tax levied on the net 12 income of individuals to be levied at a flat rate and to delete the limitation on the rates and brackets for taxpayers filing individual income tax returns? 13 14 (Effective January 1, 2018) (Amends Article VII, Section 4(A))

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HB 125 Original

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Havard

Abstract: Requires the tax levied on the net income on individuals to be levied at a flat rate, the amount for which, shall be established in law.

<u>Present constitution</u> authorizes equal and uniform taxes to be levied on net income. Further authorizes the rates for these taxes to be graduated according to the amount of the taxpayer's net income; however, the state individual and joint income tax schedule of rates and brackets are prohibited from exceeding the rates and brackets as they existed on Jan. 1, 2003.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> changes <u>present constitution</u> by eliminating references to the maximum amount of the individual income tax rates and brackets from the constitution in favor of requiring the tax levied on the net income of individuals to be levied at a flat rate, the amount of which, shall be established in law.

Effective on Jan. 1, 2018, and applicable to all tax years beginning on and after Jan. 1, 2018.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Oct. 14, 2017.

(Amends Const. Art. VII, §4(A))

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.