

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2011 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED

Committee on Community Affairs

CS/CS/CS/HB 1163 — Ad Valorem Taxation

by Economic Affairs Committee; Appropriations Committee; Finance and Tax Committee; and Reps. Dorworth, Bovo and others (CS/SB 1722 by Judiciary Committee; and Senators Fasano and Gaetz)

This bill provides statutory implementation of House Joint Resolution (HJR) 381 should the joint resolution be approved by the voters. The bill reduces the limitation on annual assessment increases applicable to non-homestead property and certain residential and nonresidential property from 10 percent to 5 percent, except that changes, additions, and improvements begin being assessed at just value.

The bill also provides an additional homestead exemption for specified “first-time Florida homesteaders,” who have established the right to receive a homestead exemption as provided in s. 196.031, F.S., within one year after purchasing homestead property and who have not owned property and received a homestead exemption in the past three calendar years. The bill allows a “first-time Florida homesteader” to receive an additional homestead exemption equal to 50 percent of the just value of the homestead property, not to exceed the median just value of all homestead property within the county. The additional exemption applies for a period of five years or until the property is sold and shall be reduced by 20 percent of the initial exemption on January 1 of each succeeding year until it is no longer available in the sixth and subsequent years. The exemption does not apply to school levies.

The bill grants the Florida Department of Revenue emergency rulemaking authority in order to implement the provisions of this bill and requires an annual appropriation, beginning in the 2012-2013 fiscal year, to offset ad valorem revenue reductions experienced by fiscally constrained counties, as defined in s. 218.67(1), F.S., due to the constitutional revisions contained in HJR 381.

This bill shall take effect upon becoming law. If provisions of this bill take effect upon approval of HJR 381 at the 2012 presidential preference primary, the provisions shall apply retroactively to the 2012 tax roll. If provisions of this bill take effect upon approval of HJR 381 at the November 2012 general election, the provisions shall apply to the 2013 tax roll.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 28-8; House 96-18