HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: **HJR 737** Freezing Assessed Value of Homestead Property

SPONSOR(S): Smith **TIED BILLS:**

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: Sim. SB 2598

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Local Government & Veterans' Affairs	16 Y, 0 N	Grayson	Highsmith-Smith
2) Judiciary			
3) Finance & Tax			
4)			
5)			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This bill amends s. 4, Art. VII, State Constitution, to create s. 4(f) to authorize legislation which would freeze the assessed value of homestead property owned by certain persons who are 65 years of age or older.

The bill provides that the amendment be submitted to the electors of Florida for approval or rejection at the general election in November 2004.

The bill provides authority for a county to, by ordinance, prohibit an increase in the assessed value of homestead property located in that county which is owned by any person who is age 65 and whose household income does not exceed \$20,000.

The bill provides ballot language.

The bill was referred to the Impact Conference which has not yet considered the fiscal impact of the bill.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives. STORAGE NAME: h0737a.lqv.doc April 2, 2003

DATE:

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

1.	Reduce government?	Yes[]	No[]	N/A[X]
2.	Lower taxes?	Yes[X]	No[]	N/A[]
3.	Expand individual freedom?	Yes[]	No[]	N/A[X]
4.	Increase personal responsibility?	Yes[]	No[]	N/A[X]
5.	Empower families?	Yes[]	No[]	N/A[X]

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill creates s. 4(f), Art. VII, State Constitution, to authorize legislation which would freeze the assessed value of homestead property owned by certain persons who are 65 years of age or older.

The bill provides that the amendment shall be submitted to the electors of Florida for approval or rejection at the general election in November 2004.

The bill provides authority for a county to, by ordinance, prohibit an increase in the assessed value of homestead property located in that county which is owned by any person who is age 65 and whose household income does not exceed \$20,000.

The bill provides ballot language.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

The bill consists of a joint resolution of the Florida Legislature calling for the amendment to s. 4, Art. VII, State Constitution, to create s. 4(f).

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

This bill has been submitted to the Impact Conference for review.

2. Expenditures:

This bill has been submitted to the Impact Conference for review.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

This bill has been submitted to the Impact Conference for review.

2. Expenditures:

This bill has been submitted to the Impact Conference for review.

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C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill has been submitted to the Impact Conference for review.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

This bill has been submitted to the Impact Conference for review.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not require a city or county to expend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds.

It is indeterminate whether or not the bill reduces the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate. The bill has been submitted to the Impact Conference for review.

This bill does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

Constitutional Provision for Amending the Constitution

Article XI, Section 1, of the Florida Constitution, provides the Legislature the authority to propose amendments to the Constitution by joint resolution approved by three-fifths of the membership of each house. The amendment must be placed before the electorate at the next general election held after the proposal has been filed with Secretary of State's office or may be placed at a special election held for that purpose.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

Drafting Issues

There do not appear to be any technical drafting issues.

Other Comments

Both the Florida Association of Property Appraisers and The Property Appraisers Association of Florida were contacted for comments. No comments have yet been received from either association.

The following information was delivered after the Local Government & Veterans' Affairs Committee meeting on April 2, 2003, on behalf of Tony Grippa, Chairman, Leon County Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Grippa states that "[t]wo years ago, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners implemented the state's additional homestead exemption for seniors in the full amount of \$25,000. Currently, this exemption benefits over 1,400 Leon County households, saving our seniors an estimated \$215 per household, annually. This legislation would take the next step in protecting the quality of life and independence of our state's seniors. We encourage your support of this important Resolution..."

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IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.

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