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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 622

Offered January 12, 2005

Prefiled January 10, 2005

*Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia by adding in Article X a section numbered 7-B, relating to limits on appropriations.*

Patrons—Saxman, Cole, Cosgrove, Eisenberg, Louderback and Marshall, D.W.

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, a majority of the members elected to each house agreeing, That the following amendment to the Constitution of Virginia be, and the same hereby is, proposed and referred to the General Assembly at its first regular session held after the next general election of members of the House of Delegates for its concurrence in conformity with the provisions of Section 1 of Article XII of the Constitution of Virginia, namely:

Amend the Constitution of Virginia by adding in Article X a section numbered 7-B as follows:

ARTICLE X

TAXATION AND FINANCE

*Section 7-B. Limit on appropriations.*

*Beginning with the Commonwealth's fiscal year starting on July 1, 2008, the General Assembly shall not make total appropriations for any fiscal year that exceed the total appropriations for the immediately preceding fiscal year plus a percentage increase equal to (i) the average percentage increase in the rate of inflation for the two most recently available years, plus (ii) the average percentage increase in state population for the two most recently available years, both as shall be defined by general law. For purposes of this section, "total appropriations" means all appropriations except for any moneys appropriated that are received from the federal government or an agency or unit thereof.*

*Beginning with the Commonwealth's fiscal year starting on July 1, 2008, any revenues collected by the Commonwealth in excess of the limitation provided herein shall be distributed as follows: fifty percent of the excess shall be appropriated to the Transportation Trust Fund and fifty percent shall be refunded to individual income taxpayers of the Commonwealth. Refunds to taxpayers shall be payable to taxpayers who have filed an income tax return for the calendar year in which the fiscal year surplus is determined and shall be based on each taxpayer's pro rata share of the total individual income taxes collected in the calendar year in which the fiscal year surplus is determined.*

*If the amount in excess of such limitation is less than or equal to one percent of such limitation, the total excess shall be deposited to the Revenue Stabilization Fund as established pursuant to Section 8 of this article; however, if the Fund's balance exceeds the limitation established in Section 8, such excess less than or equal to one percent shall be paid into the general fund after appropriation by the General Assembly.*

*The General Assembly shall enact such laws as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this section.*

*The General Assembly may make appropriations in excess of the limitation provided herein only by a vote equal to or greater than two-thirds of the members voting in each house, including a majority of the members elected to that house. The name of each member voting and how he voted shall be recorded in the journal of each house.*

INTRODUCED

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