

Stricken language would be deleted from the present constitution. Underlined language would be added to present constitution.

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

As Engrossed: H2/19/97

H.J.R. 1004

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5 By: Representatives Dietz and Dianne Hudson
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8 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

9 PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE PROPERTY
10 TAX RELIEF TO PERSONS SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS OF AGE AND
11 OLDER.

12 Subtitle

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14 PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO
15 PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO PERSONS
16 SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.

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20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS
22 ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

23
24 That the following is hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution
25 of the state of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the
26 state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Senators and
27 Representatives, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at such
28 election, adopt such amendment, the same shall become a part of the
29 Constitution of the state of Arkansas, to wit:

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31 SECTION 1. Section 16 of Article 16 of the Arkansas Constitution is
32 amended to read as follows:

33 ~~"§ 16. Providing for exemption of value of residence of person 65 or~~
34 ~~over.~~

35 ~~— The General Assembly, upon approval thereof by a vote of not less than~~
36 ~~three-fourths (3/4ths) of the members elected to each house, may provide that~~
37 ~~the valuation of real property actually occupied by its owner as a residence~~

1 ~~who is sixty-five (65) years of age, or older, may be exempt in such amount as~~
2 ~~may be determined by law, but no greater than the first twenty thousand~~
3 ~~dollars (\$20,000) in value thereof, as a homestead from ad valorem property~~
4 ~~taxes. [Added by Const. Amend. 59.]~~

5 (a) Real property purchased after January 1, 1999, by a person sixty-
6 five (65) years of age or older and occupied as the residence of that person
7 shall be taxed thereafter based on the lower of the assessed value as of the
8 date of purchase or a later assessed value. Substantial improvements by the
9 property owner shall increase the assessed value but ordinary repair and
10 maintenance of the property shall not increase the assessed value.

11 (b) When a person reaches sixty-five (65) years of age after January 1,
12 1999, real property owned and occupied by the person as a residence shall
13 thereafter be taxed based on the lower of the assessed value as of the
14 persons sixty-fifth (65th) birthday or a later assessed value unless the
15 property is purchased after the person reaches sixty-five (65), in which case
16 paragraph (a)(1) applies. Substantial improvements by the property owner
17 shall increase the assessed value but ordinary repair and maintenance of the
18 property shall not increase the assessed value.

19 (c) Real property owned and occupied as a residence on January 1, 1999,
20 by a person sixty-five (65) years of age or older shall hereafter be taxed
21 based on the lower of the assessed value as of January 1, 1999 or a later
22 assessed value as long as that person owns and occupies the residence.
23 Substantial improvements by the property owner shall increase the assessed
24 value but ordinary repair and maintenance of the property shall not increase
25 the assessed value."

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27 SECTION 2. The General Assembly may enact any laws it deems necessary
28 to implement this amendment.

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30 SECTION 3. This amendment applies to property taxes due after December
31 31, 1999.

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33 /s/Rep. Dietz et al
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