

Senate Resolution 642

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Rogers of the 21st, Seabaugh of the 28th, Grant of the 25th, Douglas of the 17th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that no law providing for or  
 2 increasing any state purpose tax or license fee shall become effective unless approved by a  
 3 two-thirds' majority of each branch of the General Assembly; to provide for an exception;  
 4 to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other  
 5 purposes.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

### 7 SECTION 1.

8 Article VII, Section I, Paragraph I of the Constitution is amended by striking Paragraph I in  
 9 its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 "Paragraph I. *Taxation; limitations on grants of tax powers.* (a) The state may not  
 11 suspend or irrevocably give, grant, limit, or restrain the right of taxation and all laws,  
 12 grants, contracts, and other acts to effect any of these purposes are null and void. Except  
 13 as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the right of taxation shall always be under the  
 14 complete control of the state.

15 (b) No law proposing or increasing any state purpose tax or license fee shall take effect  
 16 unless and until approved by two-thirds of the members of each branch of the General  
 17 Assembly in a roll-call vote. Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year of the state, the  
 18 General Assembly shall appropriate revenues to pay interest on its debt to which it has  
 19 pledged its faith and credit and which interest is payable in the year for which such  
 20 appropriation is made and to pay the principal of such debt, payable in such year, whether  
 21 at maturity or otherwise. To the extent that insufficient revenues are provided to pay the  
 22 principal and interest on such debt when due and payable, the first moneys thereafter  
 23 received by the state shall be set aside and applied to the payment of the principal and  
 24 interest on such debt. To make up for such insufficient revenues, the General Assembly  
 25 may increase the rate of taxes and fees without regard to the limitations of this  
 26 subparagraph after the failure to pay when due the principal of and interest on such debt."

**SECTION 2.**

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2 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as  
3 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the  
4 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

5 " YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide that no law  
6 providing for or increasing any state purpose tax or license fee shall take  
7  NO effect unless and until approved by a two-thirds' majority of each branch of  
8 the General Assembly?"

9 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."

10 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If  
11 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall  
12 become a part of the Constitution of this state.