House Resolution 305

By: Representatives Kelley of the 16th, Setzler of the 35th, Allison of the 8th, Turner of the 21st, Barr of the 103rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to limit the rate of growth in the state budget, with such limitation based upon changes in the Consumer Price Index and population growth; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article III, Section IX, Paragraph IV of the Constitution is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read as follows:

"(e)(1) The General Assembly shall not appropriate state funds for any given fiscal year which, in the aggregate, exceed the aggregate amount of state funds appropriated for the immediately preceding fiscal year plus a percentage increase in such appropriation over the appropriation for the immediately preceding fiscal year which does not exceed the percentage increase in gross state product for the most recently available year over the gross state product for the immediately preceding year. For purposes of this subparagraph, the percentage increase in gross state product shall be determined by the Consumer Price Index as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor plus the annual percentage increase in the total population of this state according to the United States Bureau of the Census. Should the gross state product decline, this subparagraph shall not require aggregate appropriated state funds to be reduced. The General Assembly may exceed the limitation of this subparagraph only if a joint resolution specifically authorizing the expenditure of additional funds is approved by a two-thirds' vote of both houses of the General Assembly. Such resolution shall be limited to the expenditure of additional funds and no other issues shall be contained in the resolution.

(2) In the event the revenue received by the state exceeds the amount necessary to fund appropriations as provided in subparagraph (1) of this subparagraph and the reserve fund, such excess shall be refunded to the citizens of this state who have paid income tax in the

previous year. The General Assembly is authorized to establish the method for payment and allocation of the income tax rebate by general law.″

SECTION 2.

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

"( ) YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to limit the rate of
( ) NO growth in the state budget, with such limitation based upon changes in the
Consumer Price Index and population growth?"

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