

Subject Constitutional amendment to increase sales tax rate and earmark increased sales tax revenues for housing

Authors Howard and others

Analyst Justin Cope

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Overview

This bill would enact a constitutional amendment that would increase the sales tax rate by three-eighths of a percent. Revenues generated through the increase would be earmarked for housing purposes.

Article 1: Constitutional Amendment to Fund Housing Initiatives

This article contains the text of the proposed constitutional amendment and the proposed ballot question voters could read when voting on the amendment.

Section Description – Article 1: Constitutional Amendment to Fund Housing Initiatives

1 Constitutional amendment proposed.

Increases the sales tax rate by three-eighths of a percent from 2027 to 2052 and dedicates: 25 percent of the revenues from the increase to a homeownership opportunity fund “to assist in the creation, purchase, and rehabilitation of homes for owner occupancy”; 25 percent of the revenues from the increase to a community and household stability fund “to assist in providing emergency financial assistance, legal services, educational services, and outreach services to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless”; and 50 percent of the revenues from the increase to a rental opportunity fund “to assist in funding ongoing rental assistance and supportive services for renters and in the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse of rental housing.”

2 Submission to voters.

Proposes the ballot question to be placed on ballots for voters considering the proposed constitutional amendment.

Article 2: Statutory Changes

This article contains statutory changes that would establish three statutory funds dedicated for various purposes and subject to oversight by three councils established in this article. This article would take effect only if the constitutional amendment in article one was adopted.

Section Description – Article 2: Statutory Changes

- 1 Community and household stability fund.**
Allows the community and household stability fund to be audited by the legislative auditor, requires that projects funded from it pay prevailing wages, and limits use of the fund to shelter operations; development of emergency shelter, transitional housing or supportive housing; and outreach, legal services, and emergency assistance for households that are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- 2 Community and Household Stability Council.**
Establishes a Community and Household Stability Council that would advise the governor and the legislature on expenditures from the eponymous fund.
- 3 Homeownership opportunity fund.**
Allows the homeownership opportunity fund to be audited by the legislative auditor, requires that projects funded from it pay prevailing wages, and limits use of the fund to mortgage assistance, down payment assistance, homeownership counseling, conversion of rental property to owner occupancy, and development of owner-occupied housing.
- 4 Homeownership Opportunity Council.**
Establishes a Homeownership Opportunity Council that would advise the governor and the legislature on expenditures from the eponymous fund.
- 5 Rental opportunity fund.**
Allows the rental opportunity fund to be audited by the legislative auditor, requires that projects funded from it pay prevailing wages, and limits use of the fund to developing rental property, rental assistance, and supportive services.
- 6 Rental Opportunity Council.**
Establishes a Rental Opportunity Council that would advise the governor and the legislature on expenditures from the eponymous fund.
- 7 Effective date.**
Makes the article effective July 1, 2027, if voters approve the constitutional amendment in article one.



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