



HR0130

LRB103 25646 HLH 51995 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Under Illinois constitutional law, the individual income tax is levied upon incomes at a flat, non-graduated rate; this flat rate is explicitly specified by subsection (a) of Section 3 of Article IX of the Constitution of Illinois; the Constitution, with its flat-rate income tax language, was ratified by the voters in November 1970; and

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WHEREAS, Many other states impose a flat income tax, including the neighboring states of Indiana and Kentucky; and

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WHEREAS, Unlike some other taxes imposed by the State of Illinois, including the tax on motor fuel and the State's use and occupation taxes, the income tax is non-regressive; and

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WHEREAS, Given an opportunity to reopen the question in November 2020, the people of Illinois renewed their commitment to a single State individual income tax levied at a flat rate; when presented with a proposed constitutional amendment to strike this language and to grant the politicians of Illinois the right to enact multiple income tax rates to be levied upon multiple levels of income, the proposed amendment was resoundingly defeated; and

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WHEREAS, As evidenced by the November 2020 voting numbers

1 on the Graduated Income Tax Amendment, with passage requiring  
2 either (i) a simple majority of all of those casting ballots in  
3 the overall election or (ii) a three-fifths majority of those  
4 voting on the constitutional question, the proposed amendment  
5 fell far short in both categories, with more than 3.0 million  
6 "no" votes cast against the measure; and

7 WHEREAS, The 3,059,411 "no" votes cast against the  
8 proposed constitutional amendment were a majority (53.3%) of  
9 the votes cast on the question and were also a majority (50.2%)  
10 of the total votes cast in the November 2020 election as a  
11 whole; and

12 WHEREAS, Enough "no" votes were cast on the proposed  
13 constitutional amendment that it fell more than 360,000 votes  
14 short of a simple majority and more than 760,000 votes short of  
15 a three-fifths majority of those voting on the question; and

16 WHEREAS, The people of Illinois have spoken with dignity  
17 and finality on the question of what form the individual  
18 income tax should take in Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, Despite the expressed constitutional command of  
20 the people of Illinois, re-expressed as recently as November  
21 2020, some voices continue to speak in favor of reopening this  
22 question yet again; and

1           WHEREAS, As on every previous occasion when this question  
2           has arisen, the abolition of the constitutional flat-rate law  
3           and its erasure from the income tax code of Illinois would make  
4           it easier for politicians to enact multiple income tax rates  
5           upon multiple levels of income earned by the working people of  
6           Illinois and to spend this money however they want; and

7           WHEREAS, The people of Illinois do not want a Graduated  
8           Income Tax; the negative effects upon the lives of Illinoisans  
9           by reopening this issue would far outweigh whatever benefits  
10          have been promised to them by those who call for the  
11          reconsideration of such a tax; therefore, be it

12          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
13          HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14          we oppose a graduated income tax law in Illinois, whether it is  
15          called a "graduated tax", a "progressive tax", a "fair tax",  
16          or any other euphemism its supporters wish to use to present it  
17          to the voters and engender support; and be it further

18          RESOLVED, That we oppose the reconsideration by the  
19          Illinois General Assembly of any constitutional measure  
20          intended to yet again reopen the flat-rate income tax language  
21          of subsection (a) of Section 3 of Article IX of the  
22          Constitution of Illinois; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
2 delivered to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
3 Representatives, and the Senate President.