

CHAPTER 420—H. F. No. 1213

An act proposing an amendment to section 1 of article 9 of the constitution of the state of Minnesota, relating to taxation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. **Proposed income tax amendment.**—The following amendment to Article 9 of the constitution of the State of Minnesota to take the place of Section 1 relating to taxation is hereby proposed to the people of the state of Minnesota for their approval or rejection, which amendment when adopted shall be known as section 1 of said article 9, that is to say:

“Section 1. The power of taxation shall never be surrendered, suspended or contracted away. Taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects, and shall be levied and collected for public purposes, but public burying grounds, public school houses, public hospitals, academies, colleges, universities, and all seminaries of learning, all churches, church property and houses of worship, institutions of purely public charity, and public property used exclusively for any public purpose, shall be exempt from taxation, and there may be exempted from taxation personal property not exceeding in value \$200, for each household, individual or head of a family, as the legislature may determine. *The legislature may enact any law required to make the taxation of national banking associations conform to the laws of the United States. Taxes may be imposed upon incomes and on franchises and privileges measured by income, including income, franchises and privileges of railroad companies, which may be classified, and which taxes may be graduated and progressive, and the legislature may prescribe reasonable exemptions, and such taxes may be in lieu, in whole or in part, of taxes on any class or classes of real or personal property as the legislature may determine. It shall not be necessary to submit to a vote of the people any law imposing a tax upon the income, franchises or privileges of railroad companies. Any and all provisions of the constitution of this State inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.* Provided, that the legislature may authorize municipal corporations to levy and collect assessments for local improvements upon property benefited thereby without regard to a cash valuation, and provided further, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect, modify or repeal any existing law providing for the taxation of the gross earnings of railroads.”

Sec. 2. Such proposed amendment shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection, at the general election for the year 1932, and the secretary of state shall place this proposed amendment as No. 1 on the official ballot, and the qualified electors of the state, in their respective districts may, at such election vote for or against such proposed amendment by ballot, and the returns thereof shall be made and certified within the time, and such votes canvassed, and the result thereof declared in the manner provided by law with reference to the election of state officers. If it shall appear thereupon that a majority of all electors voting at such election shall have voted for and ratified said amendment; as provided in the next section hereof, the governor shall make proclamation thereof, and such amendment so ratified shall take effect and be in force as a part of the constitution.

Sec. 3. The ballots used at said election on said election on said proposed amendment shall have printed thereon: "Amendment to section 1, article 9, of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, relating to taxation, to authorize the imposing of taxes on incomes, and on franchises and privileges, including income, franchises and privileges of railroad companies, measured by income, which taxes may be classified, and may be graduated and progressive, and providing for exemptions therefrom, and that such taxes may be in lieu, in whole or in part, of other taxes on real or personal property. It shall not be necessary to submit to a vote of the people any law imposing a tax upon the income, franchises or privileges of railroad companies. The legislature may enact any law required to make the taxation of national banking associations conform to the laws of the United States."

"Yes No"

Each elector voting upon such proposed amendment shall place a cross mark, thus "X" in a space to be left on the ballot opposite the words "yes" and "no", according as he may wish to vote for or against said amendment, and his vote shall be counted in accordance with the expressed will of such elector as provided by the election laws of this state.

Approved April 25, 1931