

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 774 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY QUIGLEY, BEAR, BOBACK, BOYD, BRADFORD, BRIGGS, CALTAGIRONE, COX, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DALEY, DAVIDSON, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, DONATUCCI, EVANKOVICH, FARRY, FREEMAN, GEIST, GIBBONS, GILLEN, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GROVE, HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, KORTZ, KRIEGER, LAWRENCE, MAHONEY, MALONEY, MARSICO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILNE, MIRABITO, MOUL, MURT, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PERRY, PICKETT, PRESTON, RAPP, ROCK, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SONNEY, STEPHENS, SWANGER, TALLMAN, THOMAS, TOEPEL, TOOHL, VEREB, VULAKOVICH AND WATSON, JUNE 13, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 13, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a select committee to investigate and review the
2 interrelationship between all current sources of school
3 district and local government tax revenue, with a focus on
4 property taxes, the current system of Federal and State
5 funding of school districts and other local government
6 functions.

7 WHEREAS, Property taxes continue to burden Commonwealth
8 homeowners and businesses and an overreliance on them, or any
9 other single source of tax revenue, undermines the long-term
10 sustainability of our school districts, our local governments,
11 our communities and our State; and

12 WHEREAS, The level of property taxes and other local taxes
13 appears to be directly related to the level of State support for
14 public education and other local government functions; and

15 WHEREAS, The act of June 27, 2006 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.1873,

1 No.1), known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, placed limits on
2 property tax increases and provided reductions for older
3 homeowners and others which addressed some aspects of the
4 current property tax problems facing individuals and
5 communities; and

6 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvanians do not understand or agree on
7 the basic facts, data and research related to this issue,
8 without which policymakers cannot properly identify and
9 implement effective long-term solutions to this problem; and

10 WHEREAS, School districts and local governments across this
11 Commonwealth are under pressure from residents to lower property
12 and other taxes, while also facing significant budget, revenue,
13 infrastructure and pension challenges of their own; therefore be
14 it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives establish a
16 select committee to investigate, review and make recommendations
17 regarding:

18 (1) the relative level of all current sources of school
19 district and local government tax revenue across this
20 Commonwealth, with a focus on property taxes;

21 (2) the relationship between the level of tax revenue
22 under paragraph (1) and the Federal and State funding of
23 school districts and local governments;

24 (3) the historical changes in the levels of tax revenue
25 and Federal and State funding of school districts and local
26 governments, with a focus on the effects of these changes on
27 public education and other local government functions and the
28 impact of the Taxpayer Relief Act;

29 (4) any possible connections between these issues, other
30 property tax issues, such as assessment and collection

1 systems and other imminent State budget issues, including
2 revenue shortfalls, infrastructure and pension issues, and
3 tax reforms; and

4 (5) any potential budgetary, revenue and governance
5 reforms necessary to address these matters;

6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Majority Leader of the House of
8 Representatives appoint the following members of the House of
9 Representatives to the select committee:

10 (1) three members of the Education Committee;

11 (2) three members of the Finance Committee;

12 (3) three members of the Urban Affairs Committee;

13 (4) three members of the Local Government Committee; and

14 (5) three additional members;

15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Minority Leader of the House of
17 Representatives appoint the following members of the House of
18 Representatives to the select committee:

19 (1) three members of the Education Committee;

20 (2) three members of the Finance Committee;

21 (3) three members of the Urban Affairs Committee; and

22 (4) three members of the Local Government Committee;

23 and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the select committee select a chairman, hold
25 hearings, take testimony and make its investigation at the
26 places it deems necessary in this Commonwealth; and be it
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the select committee be empowered to call
29 witnesses under the hand and seal of the chairman and
30 instructing any person to appear before it to answer questions

1 touching matters properly being inquired into by the committee
2 and to produce books, papers, records, accounts, reports and
3 documents as the committee deems necessary; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Committees on Education, Finance, Urban
5 Affairs and Local Government assist the select committee to the
6 extent deemed necessary by the select committee, including
7 obtaining relevant data and other research; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the ordinary and reasonable expenses incurred
9 by the select committee be paid from accounts under the control
10 of the Chief Clerk; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the select committee submit a report of its
12 findings together with its recommendations for any appropriate
13 legislation or other action to the House of Representatives not
14 later than 180 days following the adoption of this resolution or
15 November 30, 2012, whichever is later, and its existence shall
16 continue until the submission of the report.