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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 974 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY PEIFER, BROWN, CIRESI, FARRY, HERSHEY, HICKERNELL,  
JAMES, JOZWIAK, KEEFER, MENTZER, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MURT,  
PICKETT, RYAN, SAINATO, SAYLOR, STEPHENS AND TOOHL,  
MARCH 26, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES,  
MARCH 26, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Authorizing municipalities to implement senior citizen tax  
2 reduction incentive volunteer exchange programs.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Senior  
7 Citizen Tax Reduction Incentive Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative intent.

9 It is the intent of the General Assembly to authorize  
10 municipalities to establish a program to allow older residents  
11 to volunteer and receive a real property tax credit in exchange  
12 for volunteer service. While there are municipalities across  
13 this Commonwealth that provide certain property tax relief to  
14 seniors, the purpose of this act is to grant explicit  
15 legislative authorization to allow municipalities to implement  
16 such programs. It has been shown that senior citizen tax

1 reduction incentive volunteer exchange programs provide much-  
2 needed relief to senior citizens, who often struggle to meet the  
3 rising cost of property taxes, and help municipalities meet an  
4 increasing demand for a variety of services.

5 Section 3. Definitions.

6 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
7 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
8 context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 "Municipality." A city, borough, incorporated town, township  
10 of the first class, township of the second class or home rule  
11 municipality formerly classified as a city, borough,  
12 incorporated town or township.

13 "Participant." An individual who:

14 (1) is 60 years of age or older;

15 (2) has been a resident of this Commonwealth for at  
16 least 90 days;

17 (3) owns real property located in a municipality that  
18 has established a program; and

19 (4) participates in the municipality's program.

20 "Program." A senior citizen tax reduction incentive  
21 volunteer exchange program authorized under section 4(a).

22 Section 4. Program guidelines.

23 (a) Establishment.--A municipality may establish a senior  
24 citizen tax reduction incentive volunteer exchange program that  
25 provides real property tax credits to participants in exchange  
26 for participants performing volunteer services for the  
27 municipality. A municipality may adopt specific guidelines  
28 regarding the program, including the acceptance of participants.  
29 The guidelines shall include a criminal background check for  
30 each individual seeking to participate in the program.

1 (b) Value of tax credit.--The rate of real property tax  
2 credit for a participant shall be established by the  
3 municipality and may not exceed the total amount of real  
4 property taxes that are owed by the participant.

5 (c) Services.--The services that a participant provides  
6 through a program must enhance the municipality.

7 Section 5. Personal income tax levied by the Commonwealth.

8 A real property tax credit received by a participant shall  
9 not be subject to the tax imposed under Article III of the act  
10 of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of  
11 1971.

12 Section 6. Existing job positions.

13 A program may not replace or supplant existing job positions  
14 in a municipality.

15 Section 7. Funding.

16 Municipalities may use public or private funding sources to  
17 support a program.

18 Section 8. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect immediately.