

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 100 Session of
2001

INTRODUCED BY ORIE, WAGNER, COSTA, LOGAN AND ERICKSON,
AUGUST 6, 2001

REFERRED TO FINANCE, AUGUST 6, 2001

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study
2 the elimination or significant reduction of property taxes as
3 a source of funding for local school districts; to review the
4 policies of states and jurisdictions of the United States
5 which have eliminated property taxes as a source of funding
6 for local school districts; to determine the consequences of
7 such an elimination or reduction on local taxing bodies and
8 on this Commonwealth; and to make recommendations on
9 alternative financing methods for schools.

10 WHEREAS, Property taxes levied by local school districts have
11 become a tremendous burden upon homeowners and property owners
12 in this Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, Senior citizens and individuals on fixed incomes
14 have been the most detrimentally affected by the property tax
15 system; and

16 WHEREAS, Problems with fairness in the property tax system
17 have dated back more than 30 years in parts of this
18 Commonwealth; and

19 WHEREAS, Several states and jurisdictions including Michigan
20 have sought to eliminate or significantly reduce reliance on
21 property taxes as a source of funding for local jurisdictions

1 and found alternative funding sources for counties, school
2 districts, municipalities and other local jurisdictions;
3 therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Legislative Budget and
5 Finance Committee to undertake a study of the property tax
6 system in this Commonwealth in order to ascertain whether
7 property taxes can and should be eliminated or significantly
8 reduced as a source of funding for local school districts and,
9 if so, to recommend alternative funding sources for those local
10 school districts which are more fair and equitable to the
11 citizens of this Commonwealth; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
13 initially review the policies of states and jurisdictions of the
14 United States which have eliminated property taxes as a source
15 of funding for local school districts and determine the
16 consequences that such eliminations or reductions would have on
17 local taxing bodies and on this Commonwealth; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the task force make recommendations of
19 alternative funding sources for local school districts which are
20 more fair and equitable, and no less fair or less equitable, to
21 citizens of this Commonwealth than the current property tax
22 system; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
24 report its findings and recommendations to the Senate not later
25 than nine months after the passage of this resolution.