

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1966 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY HOUGHTON, SEIP, McCALL, KESSLER, BURNS, MURPHY,
LENTZ, CUTLER, McILVAINE SMITH, EVERETT, GIBBONS, GOODMAN,
GRUCELA, HENNESSEY, HORNAMAN, MAHONEY, MELIO, MUNDY, SANTONI,
SIPTROTH AND WHITE, NOVEMBER 10, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, NOVEMBER 10, 2009

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for
3 uniformity of taxation and for exemptions and special
4 provisions.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby resolves as follows:

7 Section 1. The following integrated amendments to the
8 Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with
9 Article XI:

10 (1) That section 1 of Article VIII be amended to read:

11 § 1. Uniformity of taxation.

12 [All] (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), all taxes
13 shall be uniform, upon the same class of subjects, within the
14 territorial limits of the authority levying the tax, and shall
15 be levied and collected under general laws.

16 (b) Any school district levying a tax on real property shall
17 be prohibited from levying the tax on homestead property for any
18 tax year beginning after June 30, 2013.

(2) That section 2(b)(vi) of Article VIII be amended to read:

§ 2. Exemptions and special provisions.

* * *

(b) The General Assembly may, by law:

* * *

(vi) Authorize local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation an amount based on the assessed value of homestead property. The exclusions authorized by this clause shall not exceed [one-half] 100 percent of the [median] actual assessed value of [all] each homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction. A local taxing authority may not increase the millage rate of its tax on real property to pay for these exclusions.

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Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

(b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of

1 these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the
2 Commonwealth shall submit the proposed constitutional amendments
3 as a single ballot question to the qualified electors of this
4 Commonwealth at the first primary, general or municipal election
5 which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with
6 section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and
7 which occurs at least three months after these proposed
8 constitutional amendments are passed by the General Assembly.