

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, WATSON, DEAN AND SANTARSIERO, JUNE 13, 2012

AS AMENDED, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 27, 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, INCLUDING THE EFFECT
24 OF STATE PROGRAM FUNDING CUTS; ←

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

30 (4) any possible connections between these issues, other

1 property tax issues, such as assessment and collection
2 systems and other imminent State budget issues, including
3 revenue shortfalls, UNFUNDED MANDATES, STATE PROGRAM FUNDING
4 CUTS, infrastructure and pension issues, and tax reforms; and

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

7 and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Majority Leader of the House of
9 Representatives appoint, WITHIN 15 DAYS OF PASSAGE OF THIS
10 RESOLUTION, the following members of the House of
11 Representatives to the select committee:

12 (1) ~~three members~~ ONE MEMBER of the Education Committee;

13 (2) ~~three members~~ ONE MEMBER of the Finance Committee;

14 (3) ~~three members~~ ONE MEMBER of the Urban Affairs

15 Committee;

16 (4) ~~three members~~ ONE MEMBER of the Local Government

17 Committee; and

18 ~~(5) three additional members;~~

19 (5) ONE MEMBER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY
20 COMMITTEE;

21 (6) ONE MEMBER OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE; AND

22 (7) ONE ADDITIONAL MEMBER;

23 and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Minority Leader of the House of
25 Representatives appoint, WITHIN 15 DAYS OF PASSAGE OF THIS
26 RESOLUTION, the following members of the House of
27 Representatives to the select committee:

28 (1) ~~three members~~ ONE MEMBER of the Education Committee;

29 (2) ~~three members~~ ONE MEMBER of the Finance Committee;

30 (3) ~~three members~~ ONE MEMBER of the Urban Affairs

1 Committee; ~~and~~ ←
2 ~~(4) three members of the Local Government Committee;~~
3 (4) ONE MEMBER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE; ←
4 (5) ONE MEMBER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY
5 COMMITTEE; AND
6 (6) ONE MEMBER OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE;
7 and be it further
8 RESOLVED, That the select committee select a chairman, hold
9 hearings, take testimony and make its investigation at the
10 places it deems necessary in this Commonwealth; and be it
11 further
12 RESOLVED, That the select committee be empowered to call
13 witnesses under the hand and seal of the chairman and
14 instructing any person to appear before it to answer questions
15 touching matters properly being inquired into by the committee
16 and to produce books, papers, records, accounts, reports and
17 documents as the committee deems necessary; and be it further
18 RESOLVED, That the ~~Committees on Education, Finance, Urban~~ ←
19 ~~Affairs and Local Government~~ assist MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY ←
20 LEADER PROVIDE STAFFING AND ASSISTANCE TO the select committee
21 ~~to the extent deemed necessary by the select committee,~~ ←
22 including obtaining relevant data and other research; and be it
23 further
24 RESOLVED, That the ordinary and reasonable expenses incurred
25 by the select committee be paid from accounts under the control
26 of the Chief Clerk; and be it further
27 RESOLVED, That the select committee submit a report of its
28 findings together with its recommendations for any appropriate
29 legislation or other action to the House of Representatives not
30 later than ~~180 days following the adoption of this resolution or~~ ←

1 ~~November 30, 2012, whichever is later, and its existence shall~~
2 ~~continue until the submission of the report~~ NOVEMBER 30, 2012.

