

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 363 Session of  
2008

INTRODUCED BY MELLOW AND REGOLA, JULY 3, 2008

SENATOR REGOLA, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AS AMENDED, JULY 4, 2008

## A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee in  
2 cooperation with the Department of Community and Economic  
3 Development and the Local Government ~~Committee of the Senate~~ <—  
4 COMMISSION to conduct a study of the impact that tax-exempt <—  
5 real properties have on the fiscal health of Pennsylvania's  
6 municipalities.

7 WHEREAS, The growing number of municipalities in fiscal  
8 decline impacts Pennsylvanians and Pennsylvania businesses in  
9 rural, suburban and urban areas; and

10 WHEREAS, There exists in this Commonwealth a large number of  
11 important governmental institutions, not-for-profit medical  
12 facilities or institutions of higher learning that rely upon the  
13 communities in which they are located for essential government  
14 services such as public safety and vital transportation and  
15 utility infrastructures; and

16 WHEREAS, These nonprofit or tax-exempt entities contribute to  
17 the quality of life of the community through the services they  
18 provide, but their impact on local government budgets is no  
19 different than for-profit entities; and

1 WHEREAS, These nonprofit or tax-exempt entities rely on  
2 important government services, yet, in some cases, they do not  
3 contribute a proportional share to the costs of operating and  
4 maintaining these local government services; and

5 WHEREAS, Our Pennsylvania communities are facing an epidemic  
6 of fiscal distress as they struggle to reconcile mounting costs  
7 for public services with stagnant or declining revenue streams  
8 resulting in increasing property taxes for the residents and  
9 businesses that reside in these municipalities; and

10 WHEREAS, Communities facing fiscal problems find it  
11 increasingly difficult to maintain their infrastructure and  
12 provide essential services to their residents and businesses  
13 without increasing taxes and fees; and

14 ~~WHEREAS, Problems such as rising crime and crumbling streets~~ <—  
15 ~~combined with ever rising taxes convince more and more residents~~  
16 ~~and businesses to leave core communities, further eroding an~~  
17 ~~already depleted tax base; therefore be it~~

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Legislative Budget and  
19 Finance Committee, in cooperation with the Department of  
20 Community and Economic Development and the Local Government  
21 ~~Committee of the Senate~~ COMMISSION, to conduct a study and issue <—  
22 recommendations, including, but not limited to, the creation of  
23 new community development programs, the expansion of existing  
24 community development programs, as well as potential sources of  
25 Commonwealth financial assistance to assist Pennsylvania's  
26 municipalities; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
28 report its findings and recommendations to the Senate no later  
29 than November 30, 2008.