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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 86 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY YOUNGBLOOD, DONATUCCI, CLAY, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,  
O'BRIEN, THOMAS, ROZZI, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, KINSEY, MURT,  
NEILSON, CRUZ, D. COSTA AND ROEBUCK, FEBRUARY 11, 2013

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, FEBRUARY 11, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study  
2 the allocation of gaming revenue provided to Philadelphia  
3 from the Property Tax Relief Fund and whether wage tax relief  
4 or property tax relief best represents the needs of the  
5 residents and taxpayers of the city.

6 WHEREAS, The 2006 Taxpayer Relief Act and Title 4 of the  
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes created the Property Tax  
8 Relief Fund as a way to use gaming revenue to reduce property  
9 taxes for homeowners across the Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, The only exception to the use of gaming revenue to  
11 reduce property taxes is in Philadelphia, where gaming revenue  
12 is used to reduce the city's wage tax; and

13 WHEREAS, At the time of passage of the Taxpayer Relief Act,  
14 some believed that the taxpayers of Philadelphia would best be  
15 served with a reduction in wage tax instead of a reduction in  
16 property taxes; and

17 WHEREAS, A significant amount of the revenue generated by  
18 gaming for Philadelphia for wage tax relief is dedicated to  
19 nonresidents who work in the city but live in a surrounding

1 county; and

2 WHEREAS, Thirty-five percent of the city's allocation from  
3 the Property Tax Relief Fund is provided for suburban wage tax  
4 relief that does not stay within the city; and

5 WHEREAS, Some suburban county residents receive both wage and  
6 property tax relief; and

7 WHEREAS, Financial analysts have said that Philadelphia  
8 residents pay less in property taxes and more in wage taxes than  
9 residents of many other jurisdictions; and

10 WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia is set to implement a new,  
11 updated property tax assessment plan in 2013, known as Actual  
12 Value Initiative, or AVI; and

13 WHEREAS, AVI is expected to result in higher property tax  
14 assessments for hundreds of thousands of city residents; and

15 WHEREAS, Many residents could see an increase in property  
16 taxes as high as 300%; and

17 WHEREAS, Notices of the new assessments are expected to be  
18 mailed to residents in February 2013, and the new values are  
19 expected to be the basis for property tax bills due in 2014; and

20 WHEREAS, AVI is a new proposal that was not under  
21 consideration when the Taxpayer Relief Act and Title 4 were  
22 first implemented by the General Assembly; and

23 WHEREAS, The impacts of AVI on property taxpayers in  
24 Philadelphia could have dire impacts on homeowners and  
25 communities across the city; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
27 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the allocation  
28 of gaming revenue provided to Philadelphia from the Property Tax  
29 Relief Fund; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

1 study whether wage tax relief or property tax relief best  
2 represents the needs of the residents and taxpayers of  
3 Philadelphia; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
5 take into account Philadelphia's plan to implement AVI and  
6 reassess property values on all properties in the city; and be  
7 it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
9 report all findings on this matter to the General Assembly no  
10 later than six months after the adoption of this resolution.