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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 109 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, BOBACK, DIAMOND, DRISCOLL, GABLER, GROVE,  
MILLARD, M. QUINN, RADER, SOLOMON AND ZIMMERMAN,  
MARCH 1, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MARCH 1, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish and  
2 work in collaboration with an advisory committee to study the  
3 impact of local tax policies on State revenue and disposable  
4 family income in this Commonwealth and to submit a report on  
5 its findings to the House of Representatives.

6 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has more than 2,500 municipal  
7 governments, 67 county governments and 500 school districts; and

8 WHEREAS, Each county, municipal government and school  
9 district has been empowered by the Commonwealth to levy taxes  
10 and fees on residents; and

11 WHEREAS, Municipalities are also empowered to create local  
12 authorities that may levy taxes and fees; and

13 WHEREAS, Research has indicated that this Commonwealth has  
14 the 10th highest local tax burden in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, Wages and income have remained stagnant over the  
16 past decade in this Commonwealth; and

17 WHEREAS, The growing local tax burden on Pennsylvanians has  
18 an impact on State revenue and disposable family income;  
19 therefore be it

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
2 State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee  
3 of 7 members as follows:

4           (1) A member selected by the Secretary of Revenue of the  
5 Commonwealth;

6           (2) A member selected by the Executive Director of the  
7 Local Government Commission;

8           (3) A member representing not-for-profit organizations  
9 and associations that conduct State and local tax policy  
10 research;

11           (4) One member selected by the chair of the Finance  
12 Committee of the House of Representatives;

13           (5) One member selected by the minority chair of the  
14 Finance Committee of the House of Representatives;

15           (6) One member selected by the chair of the Local  
16 Government Committee of the House of Representatives; and

17           (7) One member selected by the minority chair of the  
18 Local Government Committee of the House of Representatives;

19 and be it further

20       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working  
21 in collaboration with the advisory committee, conduct a study on  
22 the impact of local tax policies on State revenue and disposable  
23 family income in this Commonwealth, including the tax policies  
24 of county, municipal, school district and local taxing  
25 authorities; and be it further

26       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working  
27 in collaboration with the advisory committee, conduct a study of  
28 regulatory and statutory initiatives and best practices in other  
29 states regarding local tax policy; and be it further

30       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission hold

1 informational meetings as it deems necessary to receive  
2 testimony from professionals or organizations with expertise in  
3 local tax policy; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission submit  
5 a report on its findings to the House of Representatives no  
6 later than 12 months from the date of the adoption of this  
7 resolution; and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That the report include findings of fact,  
9 recommendations for additional strategies and policies with the  
10 goal of reducing local costs and improving local funding and  
11 reducing local tax burdens and local taxing authorities.