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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 976 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY WARD, FONTANA, McGARRIGLE, VULAKOVICH, COSTA AND  
BREWSTER, DECEMBER 4, 2017

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REFERRED TO FINANCE, DECEMBER 4, 2017

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, in taxation and finance, further providing  
3 for exemptions and special provisions.

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

6 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of  
7 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

8 That section 2(b) of Article VIII be amended by adding a  
9 clause to read:

10 § 2. Exemptions and special provisions.

11 \* \* \*

12 (b) The General Assembly may, by law:

13 \* \* \*

14 (vii) Authorize each local taxing authority, upon local  
15 referendum approval, to eliminate or reduce taxes on real  
16 property through increases to the rates and expansion within the  
17 local taxing authority of personal income taxes, sales and use  
18 taxes, local services taxes or taxes on persons, transactions,

1 occupations, privileges, subjects and personal property within  
2 the limits of the local taxing authority, and upon the transfer  
3 of real property as provided by law.

4 \* \* \*

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

13 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this  
14 proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the  
15 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the  
16 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the  
17 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required  
18 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such  
19 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of  
20 this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the  
21 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment  
22 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first  
23 primary, general or municipal election which meets the  
24 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article  
25 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least  
26 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is  
27 passed by the General Assembly.