
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 820 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, ARGALL, TARTAGLIONE AND YUDICHAK,
AUGUST 7, 2019

REFERRED TO FINANCE, AUGUST 7, 2019

AN ACT

1 Providing for property tax elimination for homesteads and
2 farmsteads, establishing the Public School Funding Commission
3 and making repeals.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Homestead and
8 Farmstead Property Tax Elimination Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Commission." The Public School Funding Commission
14 established under section 4.

15 "Farmstead." As defined in 53 Pa.C.S. § 8582 (relating to
16 definitions).

17 "Homestead." As defined in 53 Pa.C.S. § 8401 (relating to
18 definitions).

1 Section 3. Prohibition on property taxes.

2 Notwithstanding any other law, beginning June 30, 2020, no
3 school district may levy property taxes on a homestead or
4 farmstead in this Commonwealth.

5 Section 4. Public School Funding Commission.

6 (a) Establishment.--The Public School Funding Commission is
7 established and shall exercise the duties described under
8 subsection (f).

9 (b) Membership.--The commission shall consist of the
10 following members:

11 (1) An individual appointed by the Governor from within
12 the Governor's administration.

13 (2) The Secretary of the Budget or the secretary's
14 designee.

15 (3) The Secretary of Education or the secretary's
16 designee.

17 (4) The Secretary of Revenue or the secretary's
18 designee.

19 (5) A member of the General Assembly appointed by the
20 President pro tempore of the Senate.

21 (6) A member of the General Assembly appointed by the
22 Minority Leader of the Senate.

23 (7) A member of the General Assembly appointed by the
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

25 (8) A member of the General Assembly appointed by the
26 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

27 (9) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
28 Education Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and
29 minority chairperson of the Education Committee of the House
30 of Representatives.

1 (10) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
2 Finance Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and
3 minority chairpersons of the Finance Committee of the House
4 of Representatives.

5 (11) An individual appointed by the Pennsylvania School
6 Boards Association.

7 (12) An individual appointed by the County Commissioners
8 Association of Pennsylvania.

9 (13) Three individuals appointed by the Pennsylvania
10 Municipal League, one of whom shall be an elected official
11 who represents a city, one of whom shall be an elected
12 official who represents a township and one of whom shall be
13 an elected official who represents a borough.

14 (c) Chairperson.--The commission shall elect one of its
15 members to serve as chairperson.

16 (d) Meetings.--

17 (1) The commission shall hold its first meeting within
18 30 days of the effective date of this section,
19 notwithstanding if all of the members of the commission have
20 been appointed.

21 (2) Twelve members of the commission shall constitute a
22 quorum.

23 (e) Compensation.--Members may not receive compensation for
24 services but shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel and
25 other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the
26 performance of their duties as members of the commission.

27 (f) Duties.--The commission shall conduct a study that
28 identifies ways to ensure adequate funding for public schools to
29 replace revenues lost from the prohibition on collection of
30 property taxes under section 3. The commission shall evaluate a

1 means of increasing personal income tax, increasing and
2 expanding sales and use tax and implementing alternative tax
3 plans.

4 (g) Support.--The General Assembly shall provide
5 administrative support, meeting space and any other assistance
6 required by the commission to carry out the commission's duties.
7 The Department of Education, the Department of Revenue, the
8 Office of the Budget, the Independent Fiscal Office and
9 political subdivisions shall provide the commission with data,
10 research and other information upon request by the commission.

11 (h) Report to General Assembly.--The commission shall
12 prepare a report of its study and submit the report and
13 recommendations to the Governor, the Education Committee of the
14 Senate, the Education Committee of the House of Representatives,
15 the Finance Committee of the Senate and the Finance Committee of
16 the House of Representatives before January 1, 2020.

17 Section 5. Repeals.

18 All acts and parts of acts are repealed insofar as they are
19 inconsistent with this act.

20 Section 6. Effective date.

21 This act shall take effect in 60 days.