## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 399

Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY KORTZ, CUTLER, READSHAW, DAVIS, HELM, O'NEILL, CALTAGIRONE, V. BROWN, KINSEY, HARHAI, SNYDER, HANNA, KIRKLAND, SWANGER, P. DALEY, DELUCA AND D. COSTA, JUNE 27, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, JUNE 27, 2013

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the Pennsylvania State Real Estate Commission to require 2 the disclosure of "accessible attic" conditions in the
- 3 Seller's Property Disclosure Statement.
- 4 WHEREAS, Homebuyers heavily rely on the information provided
- 5 within a Seller's Property Disclosure Statement when considering
- 6 which property is the best choice to purchase; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Being aware of the conditions of areas of a home,
- 8 especially those that are prone to water damage and dampness, is
- 9 extremely important to homebuyers in understanding the
- 10 habitability and affordability of a property; and
- 11 WHEREAS, 49 Pa. Code § 35.335a (relating to seller property
- 12 disclosure statement) sets forth a standard form, the Seller's
- 13 Property Disclosure Statement, that sellers can use to satisfy
- 14 the statutory requirement to disclose any material defects with
- 15 their property; and
- 16 WHEREAS, The Seller's Property Disclosure Statement currently
- 17 requires property owners to disclose the conditions of some

- 1 areas of a home that are prone to water leakage and dampness
- 2 accumulation, such as basements and crawl spaces; and
- 3 WHEREAS, The Seller's Property Disclosure Statement further
- 4 requires property sellers to disclose whether any measures,
- 5 other than household cleaning, have been taken to remediate or
- 6 repair the moisture damage in the basements or crawl spaces of a
- 7 property; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Attics, along with basements and crawl spaces, are
- 9 prone to moisture damage, a condition known to potentially
- 10 result in mold infestation, certain types of which can pose
- 11 significant health risks to those living with the
- 12 microorganisms; and
- 13 WHEREAS, The Seller's Property Disclosure Statement does not
- 14 require sellers to disclose the condition of accessible attics,
- 15 whether any water leaks or accumulation of dampness has occurred
- 16 or whether sellers have taken any measures to remediate those
- 17 issues within attics; and
- 18 WHEREAS, By requiring sellers to disclose the condition of
- 19 accessible attics, including the occurrence of moisture damage
- 20 and the remediation of the damage, potential homebuyers can be
- 21 better informed of the condition of a property prior to making
- 22 the decision to purchase a home; therefore be it
- 23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
- 24 Pennsylvania State Real Estate Commission to amend 49 Pa. Code §
- 25 35.335a, the Seller's Property Disclosure Statement, to include
- 26 "accessible attics" along with basements and crawl spaces as
- 27 areas where the conditions must be disclosed by property
- 28 sellers; and be it further
- 29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct a copy of
- 30 this resolution to be delivered to the Pennsylvania State Real

- 1 Estate Commission, P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- 2 17105-2649.