

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 86 Session of 2013

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

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 9, 2013

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

1 nonresidents who work in the city but live in a surrounding
2 county; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
2 study whether wage tax relief or property tax relief best
3 represents the needs of the residents and taxpayers of
4 Philadelphia; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, THAT THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE <--
6 INCLUDE ALL GAMING REVENUE THAT THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
7 RECEIVES THROUGH THE 2006 TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT AND TITLE 4 OF THE
8 PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES AND WHERE THIS REVENUE IS
9 DISTRIBUTED; AND BE IT FURTHER

10 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
11 take into account Philadelphia's plan to implement AVI and
12 reassess property values on all properties in the city; and be
13 it further

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