
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 262 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY DIAMOND, BARRAR, HELM, KORTZ, METCALFE, ORTITAY,
RADER, ROTHMAN AND TALLMAN, FEBRUARY 1, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, FEBRUARY 1, 2017

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, prohibiting the taxation of real property.

3 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

4 (1) Section 1 of Article I of the Constitution of
5 Pennsylvania declares that acquiring, possessing and
6 protecting property are inherent rights of mankind.

7 (2) These rights have been recognized since the
8 Commonwealth's liberation from tyranny in 1776.

9 (3) These rights are being abrogated by circumstances
10 within the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions,
11 causing residents to be deprived of their property for no
12 reason other than an inability to pay taxes.

13 (4) The highest duty of a government of free people is
14 to protect such inherent rights.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
16 hereby resolves as follows:

17 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of

1 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

2 That Article VIII be amended by adding a section to read:

3 § 18. Real property.

4 Beginning July 1, 2024, all taxation, assessment and
5 valuation of real property by the Commonwealth, or by any
6 authority, district, jurisdiction or political subdivision
7 within this Commonwealth, shall be prohibited.

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

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