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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 302 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY DIAMOND, HAMM, JONES, KAUFFMAN, KERWIN, MALONEY,  
METCALFE, MOUL, RYAN, SAYLOR, STAATS, STAMBAUGH, STRUZZI,  
WHEELAND AND ZIMMERMAN, JANUARY 27, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, JANUARY 27, 2021

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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, 2026, 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.