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Senate of Pennsylvania

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April 28, 2015

Dear Constituent:

Thank you for contacting my office to express your support for legislation that will eliminate school taxes for seniors. While the school property tax may have made sense when it was first enacted in the 1830s, I believe it is time to shift to a fairer way to fund our public schools.

In that regard, I am a co-sponsor of the Property Tax Independence Act, legislation that would eliminate school property taxes and shift to an increased Sales and Use Tax and Personal Income Tax. Specifically, the state's Sales and Use Tax (SUT) would be broadened to include more goods and services and increased from 6 to 7 percent. The state's Personal Income Tax (PIT) would be increased from the current 3.07 percent to 4.34 percent. The Hotel Occupancy Tax would also increase from 6 to 7 percent. The new revenue sources would replace dollar-for-dollar the revenues lost by the school property tax elimination.

Existing revenue dedicated to property tax relief from casinos would be utilized to eliminate school property taxes. The Property Tax/Rent Rebate program would continue to provide assistance for county and municipal property tax relief for those who qualify.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns on this important issue. Please feel free to contact me any time I may be of assistance with a matter related to state government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom McGarrigle'.

Thomas J. McGarrigle, Senator