

ASSEMBLY, No. 2797

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 20, 1997

By Assemblyman ROBERTS, Assemblywoman WEINBERG,
Assemblymen Zisa, Garcia, Greenwald, Impreveduto, Moran
Arnone, Dalton, Gusciora and Assemblywoman Cruz-Perez

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Property Tax Reliance Reduction
2 Study Commission to examine this State's reliance on local property
3 taxes to fund education.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. The ratio of State to local funds supporting education has been
10 declining in recent years;

11 b. For the 1996-1997 school year the State's share of school
12 expenditures will be 38.5%, compared with a rate of over 50%
13 nationally;

14 c. For the 1996-1997 school year the local share of educational
15 costs amounted to \$7.4 billion;

16 d. The State has experienced steadily increasing Statewide school
17 property taxes;

18 e. Currently, New Jersey has the second highest per-capita
19 property tax in the nation, ranking only behind New Hampshire, a state
20 which has no sales tax or income tax; and

21 f. It is imperative that a means be found to reduce this State's
22 reliance on the local property tax to fund education.

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24 2. There is established the New Jersey Property Tax Reliance
25 Reduction Study Commission which shall be composed of 15 members
26 as follows: three members of the Senate appointed by the President
27 and three members of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker,
28 with no more than three members of the Legislature from the same
29 political party; three members of the New Jersey Association of the
30 Public Schools appointed by the Governor from a list of six names
31 submitted by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
32 General Assembly; three members of the public appointed by the
33 Governor; the Commissioners of the Department of Education and the
34 Department of Community Affairs; and the State Treasurer.

1 The commission is directed to study New Jersey's reliance on the
2 local property tax to fund education and make recommendations to the
3 Governor and the Legislature on ways to reduce this reliance.

4 The commission will issue a final report of its findings and
5 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than six
6 months after its organizational meeting and the commission will expire
7 30 days after the submission of that report.

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12 Establishes New Jersey Property Tax Reliance Reduction Study
13 Commission.