



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

BILL NO. 090358

Introduced April 30, 2009

**Councilmembers DiCicco, Goode, Kenney, Jones, Greenlee and Reynolds
Brown**

**Referred to the
Committee on Finance**

AN ORDINANCE

Amending Chapter 19-1800 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "School Tax Authorization," by providing that real estate taxes levied under that Chapter shall be based on the average of several years of assessed values, so as to smooth out the effect of rapid increases in property values, and by making technical amendments, under certain terms and conditions.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 19-1800 of The Philadelphia Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 19-1800. SCHOOL TAX AUTHORIZATION.

§19-1801. Authorization of Tax.

* * *

(2) For each of the following years, the tax imposed by the Board of Education of the School District of Philadelphia shall be at the following respective rates on each one hundred dollars (\$100) of [assessed value of taxable real property as returned by the Board of Revisions of Taxes as the assessment made in the year immediately preceding the stated year] *the Taxable Assessed Value of the property as calculated under subsection 19-1801(3)*:

Year of Tax

Tax Rate

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1964 to 1965	\$0.12
1966 to 1973	\$0.425
1974	\$0.825
1975 to 1976	\$1.125
1977 to 1980	\$1.225
1981 to 1983	\$1.60
1984	\$1.90
1985 to 1988	\$2.295
1989 to 1990	\$2.445
1991 to 2002	\$2.844
2003 and thereafter	\$3.115

(3) If the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania fails to provide legislation enabling City Council to enact Bill No. 131, introduced April 26, 1984, providing for the imposition of Business Privilege Taxes for Fiscal Year 1985, or if City Council fails to adopt Bill No. 131 for Fiscal Year 1985, the rate of tax shall be two (2) dollars and four and one-half (4½) cents for the year 1985.

(4) In the event that a court of competent jurisdiction enters a final order from which all appeals have been exhausted, determining that City Council lacked the authority to impose this rate effective July 1, 1988 for the year 1989, the rate shall revert to two dollars twenty-nine and one-half cents (\$2.29½) on each one hundred (\$100) dollars of taxable real property for the year 1989.]

(3) *Taxable Assessed Value.*

(a) *Definitions.*

(i) *Assessment Ratio.* The ratio the BRT uses to determine the market value of a property from its actual market value or the pre-determined ratio the BRT uses to determine the assessed value of a property from its market value.

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(ii) *BRT. The Board of Revision of Taxes.*

(b) *For tax years prior to ----, “Taxable Assessed Value” shall equal the assessed value of taxable real property returned by the BRT for the year preceding the tax year.*

(c) *For tax year ---- and thereafter, “Taxable Assessed Value” shall equal the average of the assessed values of a property as returned by the BRT in the year immediately preceding the tax year and in each of the four years prior to that year (the “four prior years”). For purposes of calculating this five year average: (i) assessed values returned by the BRT in the four prior years shall be adjusted for any changes in the Assessment Ratio, so that all assessed values for the four prior years are restated using the same Assessment Ratio that is used in the year immediately preceding the tax year; and (ii) if a property received any type of abatement during any of the four prior years but is not receiving that abatement during the tax year, the assessed values for the four prior years shall be adjusted as if the abatement were not in effect during any of the four prior years.*

(d) *Nothing in this subsection (3) shall affect the manner in which any eligible property is afforded a tax abatement authorized by any other provision of this Code, and the Board of Revision of Taxes shall continue to administer the abatement programs in the same manner in which it currently administers those programs.*

* * *

Explanation:

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted.
Italics indicate new matter added.

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