

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 3**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
212th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JULY 28, 2006

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOSEPH J. ROBERTS, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman ALEX DECROCE

District 26 (Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Oliver, Pou, Assemblymen Steele, Fisher, Burzichelli, Chivukula, Vas, Egan, Gordon, Panter, Green, Sires, Stack, Assemblywoman Truitt, Assemblymen Moriarty, Giblin, Manzo, Epps, Johnson, Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle, Assemblymen Caraballo, Schaer, McKeon, Whelan, Scalera, Conners, Hackett, Stanley, Payne, Cohen, Cryan, Assemblywoman Stender, Assemblymen Conaway, Gusciora, Van Drew, Albano, Assemblywoman Quigley, Assemblymen Prieto, Greenwald, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblyman Mayer, Assemblywomen Cruz-Perez, Voss, Greenstein, Watson Coleman, Assemblymen Diegnan, Wisniewski, Dancer, Munoz, Corodemus, S.Kean, Assemblywoman Beck, Assemblymen Malone, Baroni, Merkt, Pennacchio, Wolfe, Bateman, Bodine, Biondi, Carroll, Assemblywoman Handlin, Assemblymen Thompson, Blee, Assemblywoman McHose, Assemblymen Chatzidakis, O'Toole, Russo, Doherty and Senator Codey

SYNOPSIS

Establishes four joint legislative committees to recommend proposals to bring about property tax reform.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/31/2006)

ACR3 ROBERTS, DECROCE

2

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** supplementing the Joint Rules of the
2 Senate and the General Assembly to establish four joint
3 legislative committees to make recommendations to both
4 Houses of the Legislature regarding proposals to bring about
5 property tax reform and to provide for the jurisdiction and
6 procedures thereof.

7
8 **WHEREAS**, The most fundamental obligation of a government is to
9 protect the welfare and well-being of its citizens; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Under the New Jersey Constitution, this responsibility is
11 vested in the Legislature and the Governor; and

12 **WHEREAS**, This State's high property taxes are a matter of great
13 concern to the people of New Jersey who view the current system
14 as regressive, inequitable, burdensome, and a threat to the financial
15 security of individuals and communities; and

16 **WHEREAS**, There is a need for the Legislature to address this situation
17 by devising, and acting upon, means to bring about property tax
18 reform based upon a fairer distribution of tax burdens and the
19 adoption of efficiencies; and

20 **WHEREAS**, This process should be initiated by the creation of joint
21 legislative committees that review and formulate proposals
22 concerning school funding, government consolidation and shared
23 services, public employee benefits, and constitutional reform and
24 property tax constitutional convention; now, therefore

25
26 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
27 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

28
29 The following Joint Rules are adopted:

30
31 1. There are created four joint legislative committees. Each
32 committee shall consist of six members, three of whom shall be
33 members of the Senate appointed by the President, and three of
34 whom shall be members of the General Assembly appointed by the
35 Speaker. No more than two members of a committee appointed by
36 the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the General Assembly
37 shall be members of the same political party. A member may be
38 removed from a committee for cause by the appointing officer,
39 except that if any member is so removed, the appointing officer
40 shall forthwith appoint another member in the same manner that the
41 original appointment was made. The President and the Speaker shall
42 each designate one appointee to a committee as co-chairperson of
43 that committee.

44
45 2. Each committee shall meet at the call of its co-chairpersons.
46 The committees may review the functions, duties, operations and
47 programs of agencies of the State and its political subdivisions
48 relevant to the areas of review as set forth herein, as well as the

ACR3 ROBERTS, DECROCE

3

1 relevant governing statutes, regulations, ordinances, resolutions,
2 opinions, and orders. As part of that review, the committees may
3 consider pending and proposed bills and resolutions, as well as
4 relevant reports and testimony. The deliberations of the committees
5 shall conclude with a report, that shall be transmitted to the Senate
6 and the General Assembly, which shall include proposals for
7 constitutional amendments and legislation to bring about property
8 tax reform. The report shall be transmitted no later than November
9 15, 2006 unless an extension is approved jointly by the President of
10 the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly.

11

12 3. a. There is created the Joint Legislative Committee on
13 Public School Funding Reform. It shall be the duty of the
14 committee to review and formulate proposals that address the
15 manner in which government provides for the maintenance and
16 support of a system of free public schools for the instruction of the
17 children of this State. The committee may consider proposals to:
18 provide State support based on student needs rather than geographic
19 location; eliminate disincentives to the regionalization of school
20 districts; control school district spending, particularly
21 administrative spending; and improve the effectiveness of the
22 current law limiting increases in school district spending; as well as
23 such other proposals as the committee deems appropriate.

24 b. There is created the Joint Legislative Committee on
25 Government Consolidation and Shared Services. It shall be the
26 duty of the committee to review and formulate proposals that
27 address the sharing of services and regionalization of functions at
28 all levels of government, as well as such other proposals as the
29 committee deems appropriate. As a basis for these deliberations,
30 the committee shall use the CORE agenda proposed by the Speaker
31 of the General Assembly. In addition, the committee shall consider
32 proposals to consolidate or eliminate State agency functions and
33 State agencies or commissions.

34 c. There is created the Joint Legislative Committee on Public
35 Employee Benefits Reform. It shall be the duty of the committee to
36 review and formulate proposals that address abuses of the system of
37 benefits provided to public employees, including all branches of
38 State government and all local government entities, and to control
39 the costs of the State and its political subdivisions for public
40 employee retirement, health care and other benefits, as well as such
41 other proposals as the committee deems appropriate. As a basis for
42 its deliberations, the committee shall use the recommendations of
43 the Benefits Review Task Force contained in its December 1, 2005
44 report, as well as other relevant reports.

45 d. There is created the Joint Legislative Committee on
46 Constitutional Reform and Citizens Property Tax Constitutional
47 Convention. It shall be the duty of the committee to review and
48 formulate proposals that address property tax reform through

ACR3 ROBERTS, DECROCE

4

1 amendments to the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, as well
2 as such other proposals as the committee deems appropriate. The
3 committee shall also determine whether amendments to the State
4 Constitution should be recommended to the Legislature for
5 submission directly to the voters or whether such amendments
6 should be referred to a citizens property tax constitutional
7 convention to be convened for the purpose of reforming the system
8 of property taxation.

9
10 4. Each joint legislative committee shall organize as soon as
11 possible after the appointment of its members.

12
13 5. Four members of a joint legislative committee shall
14 constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. Official
15 committee action shall be by a majority vote of the members
16 serving on the committee.

17
18 6. The joint legislative committees shall be entitled to call to
19 their assistance and avail themselves of the services of such
20 employees of any State, county or municipal department, board,
21 bureau, commission, agency or authority as they may deem
22 necessary or desirable, and as may be available for their purposes.

23
24 7. Any member or members of a joint legislative committee
25 who do not concur with the report of the committee may issue a
26 minority statement, that shall be included in the transmitted report
27 of the committee.

28
29 8. All public meetings shall be recorded and transcribed, and,
30 when feasible, audio and video of public meetings shall be
31 broadcast on the State Legislature's website. All meetings at which
32 official committee action is taken shall be open to the public. The
33 chairpersons of a joint legislative committee shall notify the Office
34 of Legislative Services, for posting and distribution to the public, of
35 the time, place and agenda of each meeting of the committee. The
36 notice shall be distributed to the public at least five days prior to the
37 meeting, except in the case of an emergency, or except when the
38 presiding officers, acting jointly, waive the notice requirement.

39
40 9. To the extent that the jurisdiction or recommendations of
41 joint committees may overlap or conflict, the co-chairpersons of
42 those committees shall consult with each other to coordinate and
43 resolve differences.

44
45 10. This concurrent resolution shall take effect immediately.

1 STATEMENT

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13

This concurrent resolution would establish four joint legislative committees to review and formulate proposals that address property tax reform for the people of this State. The committees are the Joint Legislative Committee on Public School Funding Reform, the Joint Legislative Committee on Government Consolidation and Shared Services, the Joint Legislative Committee on Public Employee Benefits Reform, and the Joint Legislative Committee on Constitutional Reform and Citizens Property Tax Constitutional Convention. The committees will review and formulate proposals within their respective subject areas as set forth in this resolution, and make recommendations to both Houses of the Legislature.