

1972 SPECIAL SESSION NO. 1

No. 5

AN ACT

SB 3

Authorizing abatement of real estate taxes because of destruction or damage of property by flood, or the refund or credit of the amount of such taxes against future taxes by certain political subdivisions and authorizing assessment of properties retroactive to January 1, 1972.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The taxing bodies of the various counties, cities, boroughs, towns, townships and school districts, may abate real estate taxes imposed by them for the tax year 1972, if the real property upon which the tax was imposed was damaged or destroyed by flood: Provided, That the amount of any tax abated shall be in direct proportion to the damage to the property as measured by a reduction in the assessed valuation of the property by the local assessing authority using the same assessment valuation factors, criteria, and procedures in use prior to the disaster. Local assessing authorities are hereby authorized to assess flood damaged properties retroactive to January 1, 1972 to reflect property reductions due to flood damage. In the event that such tax has been paid, the taxing bodies may refund such taxes, or provide for giving credit for the amount paid against any future real estate taxes imposed upon the property subsequent to the tax year 1972: Provided, however, That the amount abated by any taxing body shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for any single property.

Section 2. No abatement, refund or credit, shall be allowed unless the property owner petitions the taxing body for the abatement, refund or credit, on or prior to April 1, 1973.

Section 3. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania may make, from State disaster relief funds available under the act of July 7, 1972 (Act No. 18-A), for a total period not exceeding three years, annual partial or full reimbursement to any county, city, borough, town, township or school district for annual real estate taxes lost, based on the tax rate set for the year 1972, as a consequence of property values lost because of floods occurring during the Great June Flood of 1972: Provided however, That any partial or full reimbursement made shall not duplicate any State or Federal payment made or to be made under any State or Federal Assistance Program: And provided further, That any taxes lost for any reason not directly associated with the flooding shall not be eligible for any such Commonwealth reimbursement for the years 1972, 1973 and 1974. Determination of eligibility for partial or full funding under this section

shall be made by the Department of Community Affairs with the approval of the Governor. No payment under the authority of this act shall be made to school districts unless the district has applied for assistance from the Federal Government under P.L.81-874 (20 U.S. Code 241-1) and that application has been denied.

Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 29th day of December, A. D. 1972.

MILTON J. SHAPP

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly No. 5.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. McLaughlin Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Secretary of the Commonwealth.