



Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials

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TO: Members, House of Representatives

FROM: Jennifer Hoover-Vogel
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SUBJECT: SB 1309 (Argall)

DATE: October 17, 2012

Yesterday, by a vote of 134-62, the House successfully reverted to the prior printer's number on Senate Bill 1309 (Argall). PASBO sincerely appreciates this change in the bill. Senate Bill 1309 provides a reasoned approach to balance the interests of school districts and their taxpayers. In its current form, the bill mirrors that version which passed the Senate by a vote of 34-13, allowing taxing jurisdictions to pursue assessment appeals when the aggregate additional revenue to be collected by the taxing district pursuant to an appeal would be \$10,000 or more in at least one of the years under appeal.

The Senate-approved version of Senate Bill 1309 will protect homeowners, while making certain that school districts continue to have the authority to challenge assessments when a residential or commercial property is dramatically under-assessed. Hundreds of millions of assessed value reductions have been awarded to business and commercial property owners since the decline of the real estate market. Without the options provided in Senate Bill 1309, residential property owners will be penalized and business properties will benefit.

We believe the current version of Senate Bill 1309 is balanced, reasonable and will protect school districts and residential property owners.