

DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

2026 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Patron** Joseph P. McNamara

3. **Committee** House Finance

4. **Title** Tangible personal property tax relief; Rate of taxation

2. **Bill Number** HB 566

House of Origin:

Introduced

Substitute

Engrossed

Second House:

In Committee

Substitute

Enrolled

5. **Summary/Purpose:**

The Department of Taxation (“the Department”) understands that the Patron intends to introduce a substitute. This Fiscal Impact Statement is based upon the substitute.

This bill would require that, beginning with tax year 2027, each county, city, or town that levies a tangible personal property tax and receives reimbursement under the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) for qualifying vehicles reduce its local tax rate on qualifying vehicles to no greater than \$0.000001 per \$100 of the eligible assessed value of the qualifying vehicle. Eligible assessed value means \$5,000 of the assessed value of a qualifying vehicle. Under this bill, any county, city, or town receiving reimbursement shall apply the enhanced tangible personal property tax relief before applying the standard PPTRA relief.

The bill would also provide that, for tax year 2027, reimbursements would be paid over a 12-month period running from July 2027 through June 2028, with the same schedule applying in subsequent years. Payments would be issued by the State Treasurer to the locality’s treasurer on warrant of the Comptroller. Beginning in tax year 2028, if a locality’s revenues grow by five percent or more in a given year, the eligible assessed value increases by \$5,000 in that locality up to a total assessed value of \$20,000.

Under current law, counties, cities and towns levy a tangible personal property tax on vehicles based on assessed value. The PPTRA requires that localities provide tax relief for qualifying vehicles by reducing their local tax rate on the first \$20,000 of assessed value. Localities are then reimbursed a combined total of \$950 million annually by the Commonwealth in exchange for providing required tangible personal property tax relief on qualifying vehicles.

If enacted during the regular session of the 2026 General Assembly, this bill would become effective July 1, 2026.

6. **Budget amendment necessary:** Yes.

Item 258: Department of Accounts

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Not available. (See Line 8.)

8. Fiscal implications:

Administrative Costs

This bill would have an unknown impact on state and local administrative costs.

Revenue Impact

This bill would not impact local revenues. However, it would significantly reduce the amount of state General Fund revenue that would otherwise be available for appropriation.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

All localities

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments:

Personal Property Tax Relief Act ("PPTRA") of 1998

The PPTRA originally was intended to eliminate the tangible personal property tax imposed on the first \$20,000 of value on passenger cars, pickup or panel trucks, and motorcycles owned or leased by natural persons and used for nonbusiness purposes.

The tax was originally scheduled to be eliminated over five years with 12.5% of the tax eliminated in 1998, 27.5% in 1999, 47.5% in 2000, 70% in 2001, and 100% in 2002 and thereafter. The tax on vehicles valued at \$1,000 or less was completely eliminated in 1998. The amount of tax relief was shown on the taxpayer's bill and the Commonwealth reimbursed localities for the amount of tax relief.

Senate Bill 5005 (Chapter 1, 2004 Special Session I) changed the personal property tax relief program for motor vehicles. The state currently distributes \$950 million annually to localities as reimbursement for the personal property tax relief provided by each locality. Each locality's share of the \$950 million state reimbursement for tax year 2006 and subsequent tax years is based upon its share of the total state reimbursement for tax year 2005.

Tangible Personal Property Tax Relief on Qualifying Automobiles

Under the current provisions of personal property tax relief, each locality is permitted to establish its tangible personal property tax rate for its general class of tangible personal property, which rate shall also be applied to that portion of the value of each qualifying vehicle that is in excess of \$20,000. After fixing or establishing its tangible personal property tax rate for its general class of tangible personal property, the local governing

body of the county, city, or town is required to fix or establish one or more reduced tax rates (lower than the rate applied to the general class of tangible personal property) that would be applied solely to that portion of the value of each qualifying vehicle that is not in excess of \$20,000. Additionally, no other tangible personal property tax rate shall be applied to that portion of the value of each qualifying vehicle that is not in excess of \$20,000.

Proposal

This bill would require that, beginning with tax year 2027, each county, city, or town that levies a tangible personal property tax and receives reimbursement under the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) for qualifying vehicles reduce its local tax rate on qualifying vehicles to no greater than \$0.000001 per \$100 of the eligible assessed value of the qualifying vehicle. Eligible assessed value means \$5,000 of the assessed value of a qualifying vehicle. Under this bill, any county, city, or town receiving reimbursement shall apply the enhanced tangible personal property tax relief before applying the standard PPTRA relief.

The bill would also provide that, for tax year 2027, reimbursements would be paid over a 12-month period running from July 2027 through June 2028, with the same schedule applying in subsequent years. Payments would be issued by the State Treasurer to the locality's treasurer on warrant of the Comptroller. Beginning in tax year 2028, if a locality's revenues grow by five percent or more in a given year, the eligible assessed value increases by \$5,000 in that locality up to a total assessed value of \$20,000.

If enacted during the regular session of the 2026 General Assembly, this bill would become effective July 1, 2026.

Similar Legislation

Senate Bill 799 would require that, beginning tax year 2027, any county, city, or town that levies a tangible personal property tax and receives reimbursement under the PPTRA for qualifying vehicles reduce its local tax rate on qualifying vehicles to no greater than \$0.00000001 per \$100 of the eligible assessed value of the qualifying vehicles. It would also require that, beginning tax year 2027, localities receiving reimbursement ensure that the reimbursement covers all personal property tax attributable to any qualifying vehicle leased by an active duty member of the United States military, the member's spouse, or both, when the lease contract requires them to pay the tax.

cc : Secretary of Finance

Date: 02/08/2026 KS
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