



Senate Education Committee

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BILL SUMMARY
Senate Bill 537, Printer's No. 543
Prime Sponsor: Rafferty

A. SYNOPSIS:

Senate Bill 537 would amend the Pennsylvania School Code to require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote for a board of school directors to increase a school district's tax millage rate.

B. BILL ANALYSIS:

Under this bill, a school district's tax millage rate in effect on the date the provision becomes effective may not be increased in future years unless the board of school directors votes to do so by a two-thirds (2/3) majority. The bill would create a new section in the School Code.

C. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT EXISTING LAW:

Under the Taxpayer Relief Act, Special Session Act 1 of 2006, 53 P.S. § 6926.101 *et seq.*, proposed tax increases above the rate of inflation are subject to a voter referendum, with exceptions for emergencies and certain necessities. Senate Bill 537 would impose a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote requirement on all tax increases, including those below the rate of inflation. Currently, only a simple majority vote is required.