



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 10-002

BY SENATOR(S) Heath, Brophy, Morse, Bacon, Boyd, Carroll M., Gibbs, Hodge, Hudak, Johnston, Keller, Newell, Romer, Sandoval, Schwartz, Shaffer B., Steadman, Tapia, Tochtrop, Whitehead, Williams;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Court, Ferrandino, Gerou, Benefield, Kefalas, Kerr A., Labuda, Levy, McCann, Merrifield, Pace, Peniston, Roberts, Ryden, Schafer S., Solano, Soper, Todd, Tyler, Vigil.

CONCERNING A REQUEST FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TAX STUDY.

WHEREAS, The General Assembly is constitutionally obligated to provide by law for an annual tax sufficient, with other resources, to defray the estimated expenses of state government and is authorized to vest counties, cities, towns, districts, or other local government entities with the power to assess and collect taxes; and

WHEREAS, The state constitution requires that the General Assembly assure just and equalized valuations for assessment of nonexempt real and personal property; and

WHEREAS, The tax policy of the state has not been comprehensively studied since 1958; and

WHEREAS, A comprehensive review of the state's revenue system will aid the General Assembly in carrying out its obligation to assure the equitable distribution of state and local tax burdens among Colorado taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, In this time of significant budget cuts, revenue shortfalls, and economic uncertainty, it is impossible for the General Assembly to fund a comprehensive tax study from its budget; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That the General Assembly requests a comprehensive tax study be performed by the University of Denver and that such study be funded by the private sector.

(2) That the comprehensive tax study consider, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) A nonpartisan review of tax policy of the state and local governments in Colorado;

(b) Whether changes in tax policy or tax laws would aid in ensuring the equitable distribution of state and local tax burdens among Colorado taxpayers;

(c) The relationship of state and local taxes to the long-term economic growth and prosperity of the state, its communities, and its citizens;

(d) The burdens on individuals and businesses resulting from taxes imposed by the state and by local governments and how these burdens have changed over time;

(e) The changing burdens on the state and local governments in financing the provision of public services to the residents of Colorado;

(f) Recommendations concerning the optimum combination of broad-based state and other state and local taxes to adequately finance future needs for state and local government services and equitably distribute the burdens on taxpayers;

(g) Future trends that might create financial impacts on the state and local governments within the next ten years and evaluating the ability of the tax base of the state and local governments to respond to those trends;

(h) The rates, bases, credits, and exemptions of each state and local tax; and

(i) The potential revenue and expenditure limitations for state and local

governments.

(3) That the General Assembly requests a report be generated and provided to the First Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly in January 2011.

Brandon C. Shaffer
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Terrance D. Carroll
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED _____

Bill Ritter, Jr.
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO