

## **Home Rule Legislation Allowing Concord to Reduce the Property Tax with a Local Option Local Income Tax**

**Article 47.** To determine whether the Town will vote to request the Board of Selectmen to ask our legislative representatives to file and seek passage of legislation [or a special act] authorizing the Town of Concord to adopt a local income tax on residents, which would be collected by the State and returned to the Town, the proceeds being applied solely for the purpose of reducing the local residential property tax levy, in substantially the following form:

### AN ACT PROVIDING FOR LOCAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR THE TOWN OF CONCORD

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 1. Sections 2 through 6 shall take effect in the Town of Concord, upon the vote of a two-thirds majority at an annual or special Town Meeting, followed by acceptance by the voters at a municipal election.

Section 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 59, or any other general law or special act to the contrary, the Town of Concord may vote at Town Meeting to accept sections 2 through 6 to replace a portion of its residential real estate property tax by a local income tax to be collected as a surcharge on the taxable personal income of residents of the Town. The adoption of such a local income tax and the rate of said surcharge shall be voted at an annual or special Town Meeting by a two-thirds majority and approved at a municipal election by a majority of those voting at the polls.

Section 3. The controls and limits on the property tax levy as established in chapter 59 of the General Laws and the method of real estate property tax assessment as set forth in said chapter shall not be altered, raised or lowered as a consequence of adoption of this local income tax. The revenues collected annually from the local income tax, as provided in this section, shall be used solely to reduce the residential property tax levy, and the calculation of levy limit under chapter 59 for purposes of determining the need for a vote to override the levy limit shall incorporate revenues collected from both the local income tax and property tax.

Section 4. The local income tax shall be collected by the department of revenue as a surcharge on the taxable personal income of Concord residents. The department of revenue shall provide space on the personal state income tax return for the surcharge to be calculated and added to the total tax to be paid. The department of revenue shall return the revenues collected from the surcharge to the Town of Concord within the quarter immediately following the calendar quarter of collection. Revenues so received shall be

used in calculating the annual property tax rate to be adopted and approved by the Board of Selectmen following vote of the annual Town budget at Town Meeting.

Section 5. The amount collected from said surcharge shall be used solely to reduce the residential property tax levy. All other categories of property shall continue to pay the property tax as provided by existing law.

Section 6. Voters at Town Meeting may also vote to exempt certain residents from the provisions of any local income tax, such as residents who qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing under state standards.