

ROBERT W. O'DONNELL
CHAIRMAN OF THE
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS



3425 CONRAD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19129
(215) 843-1700

412 MAIN CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120
(717) 783-1593

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 1982

CONTACT: ROB DUNHAM, 843-1700

O'DONNELL INTRODUCES HOMEOWNERS AID BILL

State Representative Robert W. O'Donnell, Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, recently introduced legislation that would provide property tax relief for financially needy homeowners.

O'Donnell called homeownership "second only to employment as the source of family security and social stability."

"People have been forced out of their homes by increased property tax assessments caused by 'neighborhood recycling,'" O'Donnell said. "This recycling brings an influx of new residents into a community, raising the cost of housing and property taxes and driving out long-term residents on fixed or limited incomes. Neighborhood recycling must be prevented."

The legislation "requires the Philadelphia Board of Tax Revision to grant deferral of tax payments resulting from increased property tax assessments. The deferred taxes would be repaid when ownership of the property is transferred," O'Donnell explained.

Representative O'Donnell said the bill "would strengthen neighborhoods and the city by reducing the need for foreclosures caused by an inability to pay. The city would receive full payment in the long run and the citizen would get help when he needs it."

Representative O'Donnell said the referendum would produce several "significantly beneficial side-effects. It would increase pressure on the state legislature to act on the state referendum, and it would increase interest and participation in the November election."

* * 30 * *

ROBERT W. O'DONNELL
CHAIRMAN OF THE
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS



3425 CONRAD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19129
(215) 843-1700

412 MAIN CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120
(717) 783-1593

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

December 6, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ROB DUNHAM, 843-1700

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PASSES 2nd TIME

The State House of Representatives has passed a constitutional amendment that would enable later legislation to grant property tax relief for longterm homeowners.

The amendment, which has passed the General Assembly in two consecutive sessions as required by state law, will appear on the statewide ballot in the next Commonwealth general election. If Pennsylvania voters approve the amendment at that time, it will become law.

State Representative Robert W. O'Donnell, D-198th, a leader of House proponents of the measure, called the amendment "an important and necessary step towards enabling the legislature to create a more equitable property tax system."

O'Donnell said, "we want neighborhood revival, but the current property tax structure penalizes long term residents by raising their tax assessments whenever community development occurs. A new constitutional framework is required that would enable the legislature to create a property tax deferral to protect needy homeowners from being forced from their homes."

The constitutional amendment would permit tax deferrals for long time owner-occupants in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania constitution now authorizes special property tax provisions for other property owners including disabled war veterans and owners of agricultural lands.

O'Donnell praised "the great co-operation among our delegation and between the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh legislative delegations in gaining House passage of this amendment."

ROBERT W. O'DONNELL
THE MAJORITY WHIP



3425 CONRAD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19129
(215) 843-1700

120 MAIN CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120
(717) 787-5860

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

April 4, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ROB DUNHAM, 843-1700

O'DONNELL INTRODUCES BILL TO AID NEEDY HOMEOWNERS

State Representative Robert W. O'Donnell (D-198), the House Majority Whip, this week introduced legislation that would provide property tax relief for financially needy homeowners in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

O'Donnell's bill would require the Philadelphia Board of Tax Revision to grant deferral of tax payments resulting from increased property tax assessments. The deferred taxes would be repaid when the homeowner can afford them or when ownership of the property is transferred.

O'Donnell called homeownership "a principle source of community stability and family security which the government has the responsibility to protect in economically troubled times.

"Increased property tax assessments caused by 'neighborhood recycling' have driven people out of their homes," O'Donnell said, "and the problem becomes greater in periods of prolonged high unemployment. This recycling brings an influx of new residents into a community, raising the cost of housing and property taxes and forcing out long-term residents who can't pay the heavier tax burden with fixed or limited incomes. The effects are especially severe for senior citizens."

Representative O'Donnell said "the bill will strengthen neighborhoods and the city by reducing the need for tax foreclosures caused by an inability to pay. The city would receive full payment in the long run and the citizen would get help when he needs it."

ROBERT W. O'DONNELL
THE MAJORITY WHIP



3425 CONRAD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19129
(215) 843-1700

120 MAIN CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120
(717) 787-5860

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

July 1, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ROB DUNHAM, 834-1700

HOUSE APPROVES MORTGAGE PROTECTION PLAN

State Representative Robert W. O'Donnell (D-Germantown), the House Majority Whip, today praised House passage of enabling legislation for an emergency program to protect unemployed homeowners against mortgage foreclosure.

The bill has been referred to the state senate for final legislative approval.

The Emergency Homeowner Mortgage Assistance Program would provide state loans to homeowners in danger of losing their homes as a result of financial hardships beyond their control. Borrowers would be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 over a three-year period, O'Donnell explained. The homeowner would then repay the loan when he or she was financially able.

O'Donnell said the mortgage assistance plan was "a homeowners insurance policy against unemployment. Six thousand people across Pennsylvania may lose their homes because they are out of work and have used up their unemployment compensation. A person should not be forced to give up his home just because the economy is in trouble. This plan would protect these people from economic factors beyond their control."

O'Donnell called the bill "a first step, but an important step. Since this is enabling legislation, the proposal will not go into effect until the legislature and the Governor approve subsidies to finance it."

Several proposals are now being considered to subsidize the plan which will cost an estimated \$25 million a year, O'Donnell said.