

# HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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Volume 48, Number 7

July/August 1984

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## SPECIAL LVT UPDATE

(This month, the Henry George Newsletter reports on developments in nationwide efforts to implement two-rate property taxes.)

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## NEW YORK LAUNCHES STUDY OF LAND VALUE TAXATION

The New York Legislature passed and Governor Mario Cuomo signed a bill calling for a state-wide study of the implications of a dual-rate property tax.

The bill, sponsored by Senator Owen Johnson and Assemblyman Dan Feldman, calls on the Temporary State Commission on the Real Property Tax to study and report on the feasibility of such a plan by March 1985.

It marks the first time the commission has been directed to undertake an examination of a specific taxation program, according to an Assembly staffmember.

The bill easily passed the State Senate, but appeared to stall in the powerful Assembly Ways and Means Committee. The committee finally reported favorably and the bill was passed only four days before the session adjourned for the summer.

It reads, in part:

"The legislature finds that a two-rate system... presents possibilities of a more equitable distribution of the... tax burden as well as a more productive utilization of the real property of the state, particularly in urban areas."

The passage was hailed as a giant leap forward by the state's land value taxers. The New York Incentive Taxation League was active in lobbying for passage, having urged more than 500 Georgists to write to their lawmakers and issuing a pointed memorandum to all members of the Assembly when it seemed likely that time would run out.