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'TOOL KIT' FLASHBACK

Tuesday, May 11, 2010 • Tags: [Property Taxes](#)

Christie's tool chest
Daily Record

It's easy to talk about restricting the annual growth of local government to, say, 2.5 percent, but accomplishing it is not as simple as it sounds.

Gov. Chris Christie on Monday unveiled a 33-bill package to do just that, something he has called a "tool kit" for local governing bodies.

...he is proposing to change the rules of collective bargaining to give towns and school districts more ammunition to hold down pay increases.

...

We have had a variety of spending caps on municipal government for years, but a series of exceptions made them just about meaningless. Additionally, the effect of a cap was minimized by contract settlements awarding annual increases to cops and teachers in excess of 4 percent. The governor clearly realizes that a cap is insignificant without giving local officials the ability to impose it. And that's something he is trying to do. Just about all the nearly three dozen reforms proposed Monday move in that direction.

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We applaud the governor's direction...

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