

**SJR 8222** - S AMD 126

By Senators Zarelli, Kastama, Haugen, Tom, Murray

**ADOPTED 02/13/2012**

1 Beginning on page 1, line 1, strike all material through "state."  
2 on page 2, line 17 and insert the following:

3  
4 "BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

6 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the  
7 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state  
8 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to  
9 Article VII of the Constitution of the state of Washington by adding a  
10 new section to read as follows:

11  
12 Article VII, section . . . (1) For the 2014 fiscal year or any  
13 subsequent fiscal year, the legislature may not present to the  
14 governor for consideration, nor may the governor sign into law, an  
15 appropriations bill that would appropriate from the general fund for  
16 that fiscal year a total amount that, when combined with all  
17 appropriations from the general fund for that fiscal year made as of  
18 the date of the appropriation bill's passage and the amount of any  
19 general fund moneys to be transferred to the budget stabilization  
20 account pursuant to Article VII, section 12 of this Constitution,  
21 exceeds the prior fund balance and any general fund revenues for that  
22 fiscal year as estimated by the economic and revenue forecast council  
23 or successor entity as of the date of the budget bill's passage.

24 (2) For the 2014 fiscal year or any subsequent fiscal year, the  
25 legislature may not present to the governor for consideration, nor may  
26 the governor sign into law, an appropriations bill that would require  
27 for any of the subsequent three fiscal years general fund

1 appropriations necessary to maintain estimated program and service  
2 levels either funded in that appropriations bill or mandated by other  
3 state law, of a total amount that, when combined with all projected  
4 appropriations from the general fund for that fiscal year and the  
5 amount of any general fund moneys projected to be transferred to the  
6 budget stabilization account pursuant to Article VII, section 12 of  
7 this Constitution, exceeds prior fund balances and general fund  
8 revenues for that fiscal year as estimated by the economic and revenue  
9 forecast council or successor entity as of the date of the budget  
10 bill's passage.

11 (3) The requirements of subsection (2) of this section do not  
12 apply in a fiscal year in which money is withdrawn and appropriated  
13 from the budget stabilization account.

14  
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause  
16 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at  
17 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in  
18 every legal newspaper in the state."

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EFFECT: Shortens from six to four years the balanced budget  
requirement. Clarifies that subsequent fiscal year analysis must  
include other expenditures mandated by state law. Provides an  
exception from the four year balanced budget requirement for years  
in which funds are appropriated from the budget stabilization  
account.

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