
HOUSE BILL 3169

State of Washington 56th Legislature 2000 1 Special Session

By Representatives Barlean, Doumit, Huff, H. Sommers, D. Schmidt, Ruderman, Hankins, Edmonds, Alexander, Kenney, Schindler, Miloscia, Tokuda, Quall, Lantz, Linville, Fortunato, Boldt, Fisher, Edwards, Constantine, Romero, Scott, Keiser, Schual-Berke, McIntire, Kastama, Hatfield, Carlson, McDonald, Kessler, Ogden, Dunshee, Cooper, Wood, Regala, O'Brien, Stensen, Anderson, Wolfe, Morris, Voloria, Benson, Hurst, Rockefeller, Sullivan, Woods, Lisk, Parlette, Campbell, Talcott, Ballasiotes and Thomas

Read first time 03/21/2000. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the state expenditure limit law by
2 strengthening the expenditure limit and providing for timely deposits
3 to the education construction fund; amending RCW 43.135.025,
4 43.135.035, and 43.135.045; providing an effective date; and declaring
5 an emergency.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.135.025 and 1994 c 2 s 2 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) The state shall not expend from the general fund during any
10 fiscal year state moneys in excess of the state expenditure limit
11 established under this chapter.

12 (2) Except pursuant to a declaration of emergency under RCW
13 43.135.035 or pursuant to an appropriation under RCW 43.135.045(4)(b),
14 the state treasurer shall not issue or redeem any check, warrant, or
15 voucher that will result in a state general fund expenditure for any
16 fiscal year in excess of the state expenditure limit established under
17 this chapter. A violation of this subsection constitutes a violation
18 of RCW 43.88.290 and shall subject the state treasurer to the penalties
19 provided in RCW 43.88.300.

1 (3) The state expenditure limit for any fiscal year shall be the
2 previous fiscal year's state expenditure limit increased by a
3 percentage rate that equals the fiscal growth factor.

4 (4) For purposes of computing the state expenditure limit for the
5 fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995, the phrase "the previous fiscal
6 year's state expenditure limit" means the total state expenditures from
7 the state general fund, not including federal funds, for the fiscal
8 year beginning July 1, 1989, plus the fiscal growth factor. This
9 calculation is then computed for the state expenditure limit for fiscal
10 years 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995, and as required under RCW
11 43.135.035(4).

12 (5) A state expenditure limit committee is established for the
13 purpose of determining and adjusting the state expenditure limit as
14 provided in this chapter. The members of the state expenditure limit
15 committee are the director of financial management, the state
16 treasurer, and the chairs of the senate committee on ways and means and
17 the house of representatives committee on appropriations. All actions
18 of the state expenditure limit committee taken pursuant to this chapter
19 require an affirmative vote of at least three members.

20 (6) Each November, the (~~office of financial management~~) state
21 expenditure limit committee shall adjust the expenditure limit for the
22 preceding fiscal year based on actual expenditures and known changes in
23 the fiscal growth factor and then project an expenditure limit for the
24 next two fiscal years. (~~The office of financial management shall~~
25 ~~notify the legislative fiscal committees of all adjustments to the~~
26 ~~state expenditure limit and projections of future expenditure limits.))
27 If, by November 30th, the state expenditure limit committee has not
28 adopted the expenditure limit adjustment and projected expenditure
29 limit as provided in subsection (5) of this section, the treasurer
30 shall adjust or project the expenditure limit, as necessary.~~

31 (~~(6)~~) (7) "Fiscal growth factor" means the average of the sum of
32 inflation and population change for each of the prior three fiscal
33 years.

34 (~~(7)~~) (8) "Inflation" means the percentage change in the implicit
35 price deflator for the United States for each fiscal year as published
36 by the federal bureau of labor statistics.

37 (~~(8)~~) (9) "Population change" means the percentage change in
38 state population for each fiscal year as reported by the office of
39 financial management.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.135.035 and 1994 c 2 s 4 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) After July 1, 1995, any action or combination of actions by the
4 legislature that raises state revenue or requires revenue-neutral tax
5 shifts may be taken only if approved by a two-thirds vote of each
6 house, and then only if state expenditures in any fiscal year,
7 including the new revenue, will not exceed the state expenditure limits
8 established under this chapter.

9 (2)(a) If the legislative action under subsection (1) of this
10 section will result in expenditures in excess of the state expenditure
11 limit, then the action of the legislature shall not take effect until
12 approved by a vote of the people at a November general election. The
13 office of financial management shall adjust the state expenditure limit
14 by the amount of additional revenue approved by the voters under this
15 section. This adjustment shall not exceed the amount of revenue
16 generated by the legislative action during the first full fiscal year
17 in which it is in effect. The state expenditure limit shall be
18 adjusted downward upon expiration or repeal of the legislative action.

19 (b) The ballot title for any vote of the people required under this
20 section shall be substantially as follows:

21 "Shall taxes be imposed on in order to allow a
22 spending increase above last year's authorized spending adjusted for
23 inflation and population increases?"

24 (3)(a) The state expenditure limit may be exceeded upon declaration
25 of an emergency for a period not to exceed twenty-four months by a law
26 approved by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature and
27 signed by the governor. The law shall set forth the nature of the
28 emergency, which is limited to natural disasters that require immediate
29 government action to alleviate human suffering and provide humanitarian
30 assistance. The state expenditure limit may be exceeded for no more
31 than twenty-four months following the declaration of the emergency and
32 only for the purposes contained in the emergency declaration.

33 (b) Additional taxes required for an emergency under this section
34 may be imposed only until thirty days following the next general
35 election, unless an extension is approved at that general election.
36 The additional taxes shall expire upon expiration of the declaration of
37 emergency. The legislature shall not impose additional taxes for

1 emergency purposes under this subsection unless funds in the education
2 construction fund have been exhausted.

3 (c) The state or any political subdivision of the state shall not
4 impose any tax on intangible property listed in RCW 84.36.070 as that
5 statute exists on January 1, 1993.

6 (4) If the cost of any state program or function is shifted from
7 the state general fund on or after January 1, 1993, to another source
8 of funding, or if moneys are transferred from the state general fund to
9 another fund or account, the ~~((office of financial management))~~ state
10 expenditure limit committee, acting pursuant to RCW 43.135.025(5),
11 shall lower the state expenditure limit to reflect the shift. For the
12 purposes of this section, a transfer of money from the state general
13 fund to another fund or account includes any state legislative action
14 taken after July 1, 2000, that has the effect of reducing revenues from
15 a particular source, where such revenues would otherwise be deposited
16 into the state general fund, while increasing the revenues from that
17 particular source to another state or local government account.

18 (5) If the cost of any state program or function is shifted to the
19 state general fund on or after January 1, 2000, from another source of
20 funding, or if moneys are transferred to the state general fund from
21 another fund or account, the state expenditure limit committee, acting
22 pursuant to RCW 43.135.025(5), shall increase the state expenditure
23 limit to reflect the shift.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.135.045 and 1994 c 2 s 3 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 (1) The emergency reserve fund is established in the state
27 treasury. During each fiscal year, the state treasurer shall deposit
28 in the emergency reserve fund all general fund--state revenues in
29 excess of the state expenditure limit for that fiscal year. Deposits
30 shall be made at the end of each fiscal quarter based on projections of
31 state revenues and the state expenditure limit. The treasurer shall
32 make transfers between these accounts as necessary to reconcile actual
33 annual revenues and the expenditure limit for fiscal year 2000 and
34 thereafter.

35 (2) The legislature may appropriate moneys from the emergency
36 reserve fund only with approval of at least two-thirds of the members
37 of each house of the legislature, and then only if the appropriation

1 does not cause total expenditures to exceed the state expenditure limit
2 under this chapter.

3 (3) The emergency reserve fund balance shall not exceed five
4 percent of (~~biennial~~) annual general fund--state revenues as
5 projected by the official state revenue forecast. Any balance in
6 excess of five percent shall be transferred on a quarterly basis by the
7 state treasurer to the education construction fund hereby created in
8 the treasury.

9 (4)(a) Funds may be appropriated from the education construction
10 fund exclusively for common school construction or higher education
11 construction.

12 (b) Funds may be appropriated for any other purpose only if
13 approved by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature and if
14 approved by a vote of the people at the next general election. An
15 appropriation approved by the people under this subsection shall result
16 in an adjustment to the state expenditure limit only for the fiscal
17 period for which the appropriation is made and shall not affect any
18 subsequent fiscal period.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
21 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
22 July 1, 2000.

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