
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8039

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Morton and Stevens

Read first time 03/04/2002. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GARY LOCKE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

2 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
3 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
4 represent and petition as follows:

5 WHEREAS, The legislature recognizes that the state of Washington is
6 in its first recession in twenty years; and

7 WHEREAS, The state's revenue forecast has declined seven quarters
8 in a row dating back to September 2000, and the state's budget
9 situation has changed 1.6 billion dollars for the worse since passage
10 of the current budget; and

11 WHEREAS, The legislature recognizes the real risk that revenues may
12 drop further and the state's caseload costs may rise, leaving the state
13 in a worse fiscal situation than currently forecasted; and

14 WHEREAS, The governor has the power under RCW 43.88.110 to order
15 across-the-board reductions if the governor projects a cash deficit in
16 a particular fund; and

17 WHEREAS, The Office of the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council
18 currently projects the state's general fund to be in substantial
19 deficit, and the State Treasurer has stated the general fund could be
20 in a cash deficit of 2 billion dollars by November; and

1 WHEREAS, The legislature recognizes that time is of the essence and
2 that every dollar saved today alleviates the situation as we move
3 forward in adopting a revised budget;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Your Memorialists respectfully pray
5 that the governor enact across-the-board cuts immediately, affecting
6 personnel of all branches of government. The legislature further
7 requests the governor adopt a "pay-as-you-go" plan where, if at any
8 time in the future, actual monthly revenues fall short of expenditures,
9 the governor will enact an across-the-board cut sufficient to cover the
10 shortfall.

11 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
12 transmitted to the Honorable Gary Locke, Governor of the State of
13 Washington.

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