
SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8204

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Rossi, Fairley, Deccio, Swecker, Benton, Zarelli, Horn, Hewitt, Parlette, Esser, Honeyford, Reardon, Rasmussen, Morton, T. Sheldon, Sheahan, Mulliken, West, McCaslin, Shin and Oke)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/03.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

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

8 Article VII, section . . . (a) A debt service reserve fund shall
9 be established and maintained in the state treasury. Expenditures from
10 the fund may be used only to pay debt service commitments on general
11 obligation bonds and may not be used for early retirement of debt or to
12 increase debt service payments above the statutory or constitutional
13 debt limits. Appropriations or expenditures from the debt service
14 reserve fund shall not result in either an increase or a reduction to
15 any state expenditure limit.

16 (b) By June 30th of each fiscal year there shall be transferred to
17 the debt service reserve fund an amount equal to one percent of the
18 forecasted general state revenues for that fiscal year. Nothing in
19 this subsection (b) shall prevent the appropriation of additional
20 amounts to the debt service reserve fund.

1 (c) Each fiscal quarter, a state forecast council shall estimate
2 state employment growth for the current and next two fiscal years.

3 (d) If the forecasted employment growth for any fiscal year is
4 estimated to be less than one percent, then for that fiscal year moneys
5 may be withdrawn and appropriated from the debt service reserve fund by
6 the favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house
7 of the legislature. Any amount may be withdrawn and appropriated from
8 the debt service reserve fund at any time by the favorable vote of at
9 least three-fifths of the members of each house of the legislature.

10 (e) Amounts in the debt service reserve fund may be invested as
11 provided by law and retained in that fund. When the balance in the
12 debt service reserve fund, including investment earnings, equals more
13 than ten percent of the estimated general state revenues in the prior
14 fiscal year, the legislature may, at any time for any fiscal year, by
15 the favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house,
16 withdraw and appropriate amounts in the fund, to the extent that the
17 balance exceeds ten percent.

18 (f) As used in this section, "general state revenues" has the
19 meaning set forth in Article VIII, section 1 of the Constitution.
20 Forecasts and estimates shall be made by a state forecast council
21 appointed as provided by statute and confirmed by the favorable vote of
22 three-fifths of the members of the senate.

23 (g) The legislature shall enact appropriate laws to carry out the
24 purposes of this section.

25 (h) This section shall be effective as of the second fiscal year
26 following the fiscal year in which it is approved by the qualified
27 electors of the state.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
29 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four
30 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal
31 newspaper in the state.

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