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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4219

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Alexander, Orcutt, Haler, Dunn, Armstrong, Clements, McDonald, Shabro, Sump, Hinkle, Holmquist, Ahern, Newhouse, McCune, Ericksen, Serben, Kristiansen, Bailey and Roach

Read first time . Referred to .

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 VIII of the Constitution of the state of Washington by adding  
7 a new section to read as follows:

8            Article VIII, section .... (1) A state expenditure limit is  
9 established. The state expenditure limit for any fiscal year shall be  
10 the previous fiscal year's state expenditure limit increased by a  
11 percentage rate that equals the fiscal growth factor. For purposes of  
12 this section, "fiscal growth factor" means the average of the sum of  
13 inflation and population change for each of the prior three fiscal  
14 years and "inflation" means the percentage change in the implicit price  
15 deflator for the United States for each fiscal year as published by the  
16 federal bureau of labor statistics.

17            (2) The state shall not expend from the general fund and related  
18 funds during any fiscal year state moneys in excess of the state

1 expenditure limit established under this section, except pursuant to an  
2 emergency previously declared in law by a favorable vote of  
3 three-fifths of the members elected to each house of the legislature.

4 (3) The expenditure limit shall be adjusted at least annually as  
5 follows:

6 (a) The limit shall be adjusted for the prior fiscal year based on  
7 actual expenditures and known changes in the fiscal growth factor.

8 (b) If the cost of any state program or function is shifted from  
9 the state general fund or a related fund to another source of funding,  
10 or if moneys are transferred from the state general fund or a related  
11 fund to another fund or account, the limit is lowered to reflect the  
12 shift. For the purposes of this subsection, a transfer of money from  
13 the state general fund or a related fund to another fund or account  
14 includes any state legislative action taken that has the effect of  
15 reducing revenues from a particular source, where such revenues would  
16 otherwise be deposited into the state general fund or a related fund,  
17 while increasing the revenues from that particular source to another  
18 state or local government account. This subsection does not apply to  
19 transfers required by law prior to the effective date of this section.

20 (c) If the cost of any state program or function and the ongoing  
21 revenue necessary to fund the program or function are shifted to the  
22 state general fund or a related fund on or after the effective date of  
23 this section, the limit shall be increased to reflect the shift.

24 (d) If by order of any court, or legislative enactment, the costs  
25 of a federal or local government program are transferred to or from the  
26 state, the otherwise applicable state expenditure limit shall be  
27 increased or decreased, as the case may be, by the dollar amount of the  
28 costs of the program.

29 (4) The legislature shall not impose responsibility for new  
30 programs or increased levels of service under existing programs on any  
31 political subdivision of the state unless the legislature makes  
32 provision, in a manner determined by the legislature, for the costs of  
33 the new programs or increased service levels.

34 (5) The legislature shall enact appropriate laws to carry out the  
35 purposes of this section.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single amendment  
37 within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the state  
38 Constitution.

1       The legislature finds that the changes contained in this amendment  
2 constitute a single integrated plan for placing limitations on state  
3 expenditures. If this amendment is held to be separate amendments,  
4 this joint resolution is void in its entirety and is of no further  
5 force and effect.

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

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