

SJR 8209 - S AMD 28

By Senator Zarelli

1 Strike everything beginning with line 1 and insert the following:

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

4 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the
5 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state
6 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to
7 Article VII, section 12 of the Constitution of the state of Washington
8 to read as follows:

9 Article VII, section 12. (a) A budget stabilization account shall
10 be established and maintained in the state treasury.

11 (b)(1) By June 30th of each fiscal year, an amount equal to one
12 percent of the general state revenues for that fiscal year shall be
13 transferred to the budget stabilization account. Nothing in this
14 subsection (b) shall prevent the appropriation of additional amounts to
15 the budget stabilization account.

16 (2) By June 30th of the second year of each fiscal biennium, any
17 extraordinary revenue growth shall be transferred to the budget
18 stabilization account. However, no transfer of extraordinary revenue
19 growth under this subsection (b)(2) shall occur in a fiscal biennium
20 following a fiscal biennium in which annual average state employment
21 growth averaged less than one percent per fiscal year. "Extraordinary
22 revenue growth" means the amount by which the growth in general state
23 revenues for that fiscal biennium exceeds by one-third the average
24 biennial percentage growth in general state revenues over the prior
25 five fiscal biennia. In making this determination, the comparability
26 of data shall be maintained by adjusting historical general state
27 revenues to reflect statutory changes to the dedication of state

1 revenues. The transfer under this subsection shall be made only to the
2 extent that it exceeds the total transfers under (1) of this subsection
3 for that fiscal biennium.

4 (c) Each fiscal quarter, the state economic and revenue forecast
5 council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or successor
6 entity, shall estimate state employment growth for the current and next
7 two fiscal years.

8 (d) Moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget
9 stabilization account as follows:

10 (i) If the governor declares a state of emergency resulting from a
11 catastrophic event that necessitates government action to protect life
12 or public safety, then for that fiscal year moneys may be withdrawn and
13 appropriated from the budget stabilization account, via separate
14 legislation setting forth the nature of the emergency and containing an
15 appropriation limited to the above-authorized purposes as contained in
16 the declaration, by a favorable vote of a majority of the members
17 elected to each house of the legislature.

18 (ii) If the employment growth forecast for any fiscal year is
19 estimated to be less than one percent, then for that fiscal year moneys
20 may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account
21 by the favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each
22 house of the legislature.

23 (iii) Any amount may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget
24 stabilization account at any time by the favorable vote of at least
25 three-fifths of the members of each house of the legislature.

26 (e) Amounts in the budget stabilization account may be invested as
27 provided by law and retained in that account. When the balance in the
28 budget stabilization account, including investment earnings, equals
29 more than ten percent of the estimated general state revenues in that
30 fiscal year, the legislature by the favorable vote of a majority of the
31 members elected to each house of the legislature may withdraw and
32 appropriate the balance to the extent that the balance exceeds ten
33 percent of the estimated general state revenues. Appropriations under
34 this subsection (e) may be made solely for deposit to the education
35 construction fund.

36 (f) As used in this section, "general state revenues" has the
37 meaning set forth in Article VIII, section 1 of the Constitution.

1 Forecasts and estimates shall be made by the state economic and revenue
2 forecast council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or
3 successor entity.

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

6 (h) This section takes effect July 1, 2008.

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

EFFECT: Transfers of extraordinary revenue growth will not occur
in a fiscal biennium that follows a fiscal biennium in which annual
average state employment growth averaged less than one percent per
fiscal year. "Biennium" is clarified to mean fiscal biennium.

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