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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4209

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Bailey, Alexander, Dammeier, Smith, Ross, Chandler, Warnick, Newhouse, Kristiansen, Haler, and Orcutt

Read first time 02/09/09. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

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, section 12 of the Constitution of the state of Washington  
7 to read as follows:

8            Article VII, section 12.    **SECTION 12 BUDGET STABILIZATION ACCOUNT.**

9            (a) A budget stabilization account shall be established and maintained  
10 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 biennium, any  
17 extraordinary revenue growth shall be transferred to the budget  
18 stabilization account. "Extraordinary revenue growth" means the amount  
19 by which the growth in general state revenues for that biennium exceeds

1 by one-third the average biennial percentage growth in general state  
2 revenues over the prior five biennia. In making this determination,  
3 the comparability of data shall be maintained by adjusting historical  
4 general state revenues to reflect statutory changes that affect the  
5 calculation of general state revenues. The transfer under this  
6 subsection shall be made only to the extent that it exceeds the total  
7 transfers under (1) of this subsection for that fiscal biennium.

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

12 (d) Moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget  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

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16 or public safety, then for that fiscal year moneys may be withdrawn and  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

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

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

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

1 this subsection (e) may be made solely for deposit to the education  
2 construction fund.

3 (f) As used in this section, "general state revenues" has the  
4 meaning set forth in Article VIII, section 1 of the Constitution.  
5 Forecasts and estimates shall be made by the state economic and revenue  
6 forecast council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or  
7 successor entity.

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

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

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

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