
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4227

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Orcutt, Alexander, Bailey, Rivers, Dahlquist, Harris, Haler, Warnick, Angel, Kristiansen, Taylor, Klippert, McCune, and Parker

Read first time 01/17/12. 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 of the Constitution of the state of Washington by adding a
7 new section to read as follows:

8 Article VII, section . . . (1) The legislature shall not
9 appropriate and the state shall not expend from the general fund during
10 any fiscal year state moneys in excess of the state expenditure limit
11 established under this section.

12 (2) The state expenditure limit for any fiscal year shall be the
13 previous fiscal year's state expenditure limit adjusted by a percentage
14 rate that equals the fiscal growth factor.

15 (3) For the purposes of computing the state expenditure limit for
16 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, the phrase "the previous fiscal
17 year's state expenditure limit" means the total state expenditures from
18 the state general fund, not including federal funds, for the fiscal
19 year beginning July 1, 2012, plus the fiscal growth factor.

1 (4) Each November, the expenditure limit committee or its successor
2 agency shall adjust the expenditure limit for the preceding fiscal year
3 based on actual expenditures and known changes in the fiscal growth
4 factor. Expenditure limits for the next two fiscal years must also be
5 projected.

6 (5) If the cost of any state program or function is shifted from
7 the state general fund to another source of funding, or if the moneys
8 are transferred from the state general fund to another fund or account,
9 the expenditure limit committee or its successor agency shall lower the
10 state expenditure limit to reflect the shift. If the cost of any state
11 program or function and the ongoing revenue necessary to fund the
12 program or function are shifted to the state general fund, the
13 expenditure limit committee or its successor agency shall increase the
14 state expenditure limit to reflect the shift unless the shifted revenue
15 had previously been shifted from the general fund.

16 (6) The state expenditure limit may be exceeded upon declaration of
17 an emergency for a period not to exceed twenty-four months by a law
18 approved with the favorable vote of two-thirds of the members of each
19 house of the legislature and signed by the governor. The law shall set
20 forth the nature of the emergency, which is limited to natural
21 disasters that necessitate government action to protect life or public
22 safety.

23 (7) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions
24 apply:

25 (a) "Fiscal growth factor" means the average of the sum of
26 inflation and population change for each of the prior three fiscal
27 years.

28 (b) "General fund" includes the state general fund, not including
29 federal funds, and any related accounts the legislature includes as
30 part of the general fund.

31 (c) "Inflation" means the percentage change in the implicit price
32 deflator for the United States for each fiscal year as published by the
33 federal bureau of economic analysis.

34 (d) "Population change" means the percentage change in state
35 population for each fiscal year as reported by the office of financial
36 management.

37 (8) The legislature may enact appropriate laws to carry out the
38 purposes of this section.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
2 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at
3 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in
4 every legal newspaper in the state.

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