
SENATE BILL 6636

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2012 1st Special Session

By Senators Kastama, Zarelli, and Tom

Read first time 04/04/12. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a balanced state budget for the
2 current and ensuing fiscal biennium; amending RCW 82.33.010; adding a
3 new section to chapter 43.88 RCW; and adding new sections to chapter
4 82.33 RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.88 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) For the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium and subsequent fiscal
9 biennia, the legislature shall enact an appropriations bill that
10 appropriates from the general fund and related funds for that fiscal
11 biennium a total amount that, when combined with all appropriations
12 from the general fund and related funds for that fiscal biennium made
13 as of the date of the appropriations bill's passage and the amount of
14 any general fund moneys to be transferred to the budget stabilization
15 account pursuant to Article VII, section 12 of the state Constitution,
16 does not exceed the beginning general fund and related funds balances
17 and any enacted general fund and related funds resources for that
18 fiscal biennium. For purposes of this subsection, resource estimates

1 must reflect the most recent revenue forecast of the economic and
2 revenue forecast council.

3 (2) For the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium and subsequent fiscal
4 biennia, the legislature shall enact an appropriations bill that
5 requires for the next ensuing fiscal biennium general fund and related
6 funds appropriations necessary to maintain the continuing costs of
7 program and service levels either funded in that appropriations bill or
8 mandated by other state law, of a total amount that, when combined with
9 all projected appropriations from the general fund and related funds
10 for that fiscal biennium and the amount of any general fund moneys
11 projected to be transferred to the budget stabilization account
12 pursuant to Article VII, section 12 of the state Constitution, does not
13 exceed the beginning general fund and related funds balance and any
14 enacted general fund and related funds resources for that fiscal
15 biennium. For purposes of this subsection, resource estimates must
16 reflect the most recent revenue forecast of the economic and revenue
17 forecast council.

18 (3) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply to an
19 appropriations bill that makes net reductions in general fund and
20 related funds appropriations and is enacted between July 1st and
21 February 15th of any fiscal year.

22 (4) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply to an
23 appropriations bill that is enacted by a favorable vote of three-fifths
24 of the members of each house of the legislature.

25 (5) Subsection (2) of this section does not apply in a fiscal
26 biennium in which money is appropriated from the budget stabilization
27 account.

28 (6) "Related funds," as used in this section, means the Washington
29 opportunity pathways account, the education legacy trust account, and
30 such other funds and accounts as deemed appropriate by the economic and
31 revenue forecast council under RCW 82.33.010.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.33.010 and 1990 c 229 s 1 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 (1) The economic and revenue forecast council is hereby created.
35 The council shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor
36 and four individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of
37 each of the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of

1 representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from among
2 the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other officers
3 as the members deem necessary.

4 (2) The council shall employ an economic and revenue forecast
5 supervisor to supervise the preparation of all economic and revenue
6 forecasts and state budget outlooks. As used in this chapter,
7 "supervisor" means the economic and revenue forecast supervisor.
8 Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of the council
9 is required for any decisions regarding employment of the supervisor.
10 Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each term of three
11 years. At the end of the first year of each three-year term the
12 council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by one year.
13 The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The supervisor
14 shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes of this
15 section.

16 (3) The economic and revenue forecast council shall oversee the
17 preparation of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four
18 members, the official, optimistic, and pessimistic state economic and
19 revenue forecasts prepared under RCW 82.33.020. If the council is
20 unable to approve a forecast before a date required in RCW 82.33.020,
21 the supervisor shall submit the forecast without approval and the
22 forecast shall have the same effect as if approved by the council.

23 (4) The economic and revenue forecast council shall oversee the
24 preparation of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four
25 members, the state budget outlook prepared under section 3 of this act.
26 If the council is unable to approve a state budget outlook before a
27 date required in section 3 of this act, the supervisor shall submit the
28 outlook without approval and the outlook shall have the same effect as
29 if approved by the council.

30 (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for
31 approval of the official economic and revenue forecast or the state
32 budget outlook may request, and the supervisor shall provide, an
33 alternative economic and revenue forecast or state budget outlook based
34 on assumptions specified by the member.

35 ((+5)) (6) Members of the economic and revenue forecast council
36 shall serve without additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for
37 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending

1 sessions of the council or on official business authorized by the
2 council. Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for
3 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 82.33 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) To facilitate compliance with, and subject to the terms of,
7 section 1 of this act, four times each year the supervisor shall
8 prepare, subject to the approval of the economic and revenue forecast
9 council under RCW 82.33.010, an official state budget outlook for state
10 revenues and expenditures for the general fund and related funds. In
11 odd-numbered years, the period covered by the November state budget
12 outlook shall be the current fiscal biennium and the next ensuing
13 fiscal biennium. In even-numbered years, the period covered by the
14 November budget outlook shall be the next two ensuing fiscal biennia.
15 The revenue and caseload projections used in the outlook must reflect
16 the most recent official forecasts adopted by the economic and revenue
17 forecast council and the caseload forecast council for the years for
18 which those forecasts are available. The outlook shall clearly state
19 the assumptions used in the baseline expenditure estimates and any
20 adjustments made to those estimates. The outlook shall clearly state
21 the assumptions used in the baseline revenue estimates and any
22 adjustments to those estimates. The outlook must include the impact of
23 previously enacted legislation with a future implementation date.

24 (2) The supervisor shall submit state budget outlooks prepared
25 under this section, along with any unofficial state budget outlooks
26 provided under RCW 82.33.010, to the governor and the members of the
27 committees on ways and means of the senate and house of
28 representatives, including one copy to the staff of each of the
29 committees, on or before November 20th, February 20th in the even-
30 numbered years, March 20th in the odd-numbered years, June 20th, and
31 September 20th.

32 (3) Each January, the supervisor shall also prepare, subject to the
33 approval of the economic and revenue forecast council, a state budget
34 outlook for state revenues and expenditures that reflects the
35 governor's proposed budget document submitted to the legislature under
36 chapter 43.88 RCW. Within thirty days following enactment of an
37 operating budget by the legislature, the supervisor shall prepare,

1 subject to the approval of the economic and revenue forecast council,
2 a state budget outlook for state revenues and expenditures that
3 reflects the enacted budget.

4 (4) All agencies of state government shall provide to the
5 supervisor immediate access to all information relating to state budget
6 outlooks.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 82.33 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) To promote the free flow of information and to promote
10 legislative input in the preparation of the state budget outlook,
11 immediate access to all information relating to the state budget
12 outlook shall be available to the state budget outlook work group,
13 hereby created. The state budget outlook work group shall consist of
14 one staff member selected by the executive head or chairperson of each
15 of the following agencies or committees:

- 16 (a) Office of financial management;
- 17 (b) Legislative evaluation and accountability program committee;
- 18 (c) Office of the state treasurer;
- 19 (d) Office of the state actuary;
- 20 (e) Ways and means committee of the senate; and
- 21 (f) Ways and means committee of the house of representatives.

22 (2) The state budget outlook work group shall provide technical
23 support to the economic and revenue forecast council. Meetings of the
24 state budget outlook work group may be called by any member of the
25 group for the purpose of assisting the economic and revenue forecast
26 council, reviewing the state budget outlook, or for any other purpose
27 which may assist the economic and revenue forecast council.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its
29 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
30 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
31 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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