
HOUSE BILL 2218

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Hunter, Carlyle, S. Hunt, and Santos

Read first time 03/30/15. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to repealing the state expenditure limit;
2 creating a new section; and repealing RCW 43.135.025.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the new state
5 requirements for a four-year balanced budget and the budget outlook
6 process have resulted in a new type of legislative fiscal planning
7 that balances revenues and expenditures over multiple biennia. These
8 processes were enacted in 2012 and provide a better tool for
9 balancing the state budget while fulfilling constitutional
10 requirements than does the state expenditure limit process. The state
11 expenditure limit was first enacted in 1993 as part of Initiative
12 Measure No. 601. The legislature finds that Washington has undergone
13 many changes in the intervening years, including a recession during
14 which state general fund revenues and expenditures actually declined
15 despite population growth and increased demands for public services.
16 Further, the legislature finds that the state supreme court's 2012
17 ruling and subsequent orders in *McCleary v. State* will result in a
18 constitutional obligation to increase state expenditures for basic
19 education. For these reasons, the legislature intends to repeal the
20 statute that establishes the state expenditure limit.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.135.025 (General fund expenditure
2 limit—Computation—Annual limit adjustment—Definitions—Emergency
3 exception—State treasurer duty, penalty—State expenditure limit
4 committee) and 2009 c 479 s 35, 2005 c 72 s 4, (2006 c 56 s 7 expired
5 July 1, 2007), 2000 2nd sp.s. c 2 s 1, & 1994 c 2 s 2 are each
6 repealed.

--- END ---