
HOUSE BILL 1025

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Taylor, Manweller, Shea, McCaslin, Fortunato, Stokesbary, Smith, Holy, Condotta, Rodne, Short, Buys, Pike, Young, Hargrove, Hayes, Van Werven, and Haler

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1 AN ACT Relating to establishing priorities for enactment of
2 appropriations and tax legislation; and adding a new section to
3 chapter 43.88 RCW.

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

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

7 (1) The legislature must enact appropriations for state operating
8 expenditures in separate, prioritized appropriations bills as
9 required by this section.

10 (a) Operating appropriations must be enacted in separate bills
11 for the following purposes:

12 (i) First: For payment of principal and interest on outstanding
13 debt of the state.

14 (ii) Second: For basic public education of children in grades
15 kindergarten through twelve.

16 (iii) Third: For assessing and collecting state revenue.

17 (iv) Fourth: For public safety.

18 (v) Fifth: For public health.

19 (vi) Sixth: For public assistance programs.

20 (vii) Seventh: For all other state purposes.

1 (viii) Eighth: For the legislature, judiciary, and statewide
2 elected officials in the executive branch.

3 (b) Operating appropriations bills must be enacted in the
4 priority order established in (a) of this subsection. Before either
5 house of the legislature may take a final vote on legislation that
6 raises state taxes, it must first enact operating appropriations
7 legislation that funds the maximum number of operating appropriations
8 bills in priority order with revenues projected for collection under
9 existing tax laws.

10 (c) To implement the requirements of this section, the
11 legislature must assign agencies to one of the priority categories in
12 (a) of this subsection. The legislature may divide the activities of
13 an agency among multiple categories, but it is not required to do
14 so.

15 (d) For purposes of this section, "raises state taxes" means any
16 action by the legislature that imposes a new tax, expands a tax base,
17 or increases an existing rate of taxation, including modifications to
18 any tax preference, where such action increases state tax revenue
19 deposited in any state account appropriated in state operating budget
20 legislation.

21 (e) For purposes of this section, revenue projections are made by
22 the economic and revenue forecast council as established in law, or
23 its successor entity.

24 (2) The legislature must enact all biennial appropriations bills
25 for operating, transportation, and capital purposes no later than
26 thirty days before the beginning of the fiscal biennium for which the
27 appropriations are made.

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