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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4202

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins and Stanford

Read first time 01/19/17. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

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  
7 Washington to read as follows:

8            Article VII, section 12. (a) A budget stabilization account shall  
9 be established and maintained in the state treasury.

10           (b)(1) By June 30th of each fiscal year, an amount equal to one  
11 percent of the general state revenues for that fiscal year shall be  
12 transferred to the budget stabilization account. Nothing in this  
13 subsection (b) shall prevent the appropriation of additional amounts  
14 to the budget stabilization account.

15           (2) By June 30th of the second year of each fiscal biennium,  
16 three-quarters of any extraordinary revenue growth shall be  
17 transferred to the budget stabilization account. However, no transfer  
18 of extraordinary revenue growth under this subsection (b)(2) shall  
19 occur in a fiscal biennium following a fiscal biennium in which  
20 annual average state employment growth averaged less than one percent  
21 per fiscal year. "Extraordinary revenue growth" means the amount by  
22 which the growth in general state revenues for that fiscal biennium

1 exceeds by one-third the average biennial percentage growth in  
2 general state revenues over the prior five fiscal biennia. In making  
3 this determination, the comparability of data shall be maintained by  
4 adjusting historical general state revenues to reflect statutory  
5 changes to the dedication of 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  
11 next 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  
15 a catastrophic event that necessitates government action to protect  
16 life or public safety, then for that fiscal year moneys may be  
17 withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account, via  
18 separate legislation setting forth the nature of the emergency and  
19 containing an appropriation limited to the above-authorized purposes  
20 as contained in the declaration, by a favorable vote of a majority of  
21 the members elected to each house of the legislature.

22 (ii) If the governor declares by proclamation that a security  
23 incident affecting one or more state information technology systems  
24 has occurred requiring significant state expenditures to repair and  
25 protect state information technology systems and data, or requiring  
26 significant state expenditures for state liability resulting from the  
27 security incident, then for that fiscal year moneys may be withdrawn  
28 and appropriated from the budget stabilization account, via separate  
29 legislation containing an appropriation limited to the purpose in  
30 this subsection (d)(ii), by a favorable vote of a majority of the  
31 members elected to each house of the legislature. For the purposes of  
32 this subsection (d)(ii), "significant state expenditures" means  
33 expenditures as estimated by the office of financial management or  
34 successor agency that exceed one-half of one percent of general state  
35 revenues as calculated under Article VIII, section 1 of the  
36 Constitution.

37 (iii) If the employment growth forecast for any fiscal year is  
38 estimated to be less than one percent, then for that fiscal year  
39 moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget

1 stabilization account by the favorable vote of a majority of the  
2 members elected to each house of the legislature.

3 ~~((iii))~~ (iv) Any amount may be withdrawn and appropriated from  
4 the budget stabilization account at any time by the favorable vote of  
5 at least three-fifths of the members of each house of the  
6 legislature.

7 (e) Amounts in the budget stabilization account may be invested  
8 as provided by law and retained in that account. When the balance in  
9 the budget stabilization account, including investment earnings,  
10 equals more than ten percent of the estimated general state revenues  
11 in that fiscal year, the legislature by the favorable vote of a  
12 majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature may  
13 withdraw and appropriate the balance to the extent that the balance  
14 exceeds ten percent of the estimated general state revenues.  
15 Appropriations under this subsection (e) may be made solely for  
16 deposit to the education construction fund.

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

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

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

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

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