
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8207

State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Becker, Brown, Fortunato, Honeyford, O'Ban, Palumbo, Rivers, Schoesler, Wagoner, and Wilson, L.

Read first time 02/01/19. 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 VIII of the Constitution of the state of Washington by adding
7 a new section to read as follows:

8 Article VIII, section . . . (1) The state must adopt a four-year
9 balanced budget as follows:

10 (a) The governor shall propose and the legislature shall enact a
11 balanced omnibus operating appropriations bill that leaves, in total,
12 a positive ending fund balance in the state general fund and related
13 funds for the fiscal biennium.

14 (b) The projected maintenance level of the omnibus operating
15 appropriations bill proposed by the governor or enacted by the
16 legislature shall not exceed the available fiscal resources for the
17 next ensuing fiscal biennium.

18 (c) Subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section does not apply to
19 an 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. Subsection (1)(b) of this section
22 does not apply in a fiscal biennium in which: (i) The employment

1 growth forecast is estimated to be less than one percent; and (ii)
2 money is appropriated from the budget stabilization account under
3 Article VII, section 12(d)(ii) of this Constitution.

4 (d) The term "available fiscal resources" means the beginning
5 general fund and related fund balances and any fiscal resources
6 estimated for the general fund and related funds, adjusted for
7 enacted legislation and any vetoed section or appropriation item in
8 that omnibus operating appropriations bill, and with forecasted
9 revenues adjusted to the greater of (i) the official general fund and
10 related funds revenue forecast for the ensuing biennium, or (ii) the
11 official general fund and related funds forecast for the second
12 fiscal year of the current fiscal biennium, increased by 4.5 percent
13 for each fiscal year of the ensuing biennium. The term "projected
14 maintenance level" means estimated appropriations necessary to
15 maintain the continuing costs of program and service levels either
16 funded in that proposed or enacted appropriations bill or mandated by
17 other state or federal law, and the amount of any general fund moneys
18 projected to be transferred to the budget stabilization account
19 pursuant to Article VII, section 12 of this Constitution.

20 (2) General fund and related fund balances and forecasts shall be
21 made by the state economic and revenue forecast council appointed and
22 authorized as provided by statute, or successor agency.

23 (3) The legislature shall enact laws to carry out the purposes of
24 this section, including defining the term "related funds."

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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