
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5915

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Brown, Angel, Miloscia, Braun, Dansel, Schoesler, Hewitt, and Chase)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to fiscal notes; amending RCW 43.88A.010 and
2 43.88A.020; adding a new section to chapter 43.88A RCW; creating a
3 new section; and providing expiration dates.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.88A.010 and 1977 ex.s. c 25 s 1 are each amended
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature hereby recognizes the necessity of developing a
8 uniform and coordinated procedure for determining the expected fiscal
9 impact of bills and resolutions on state government. The legislature
10 also recognizes that developing (~~(such)~~) these statements of fiscal
11 impact(~~(, which shall be known as fiscal notes,)~~) requires the
12 designation of a state agency to be principally responsible
13 (~~(therefor)~~) for the statements. The statements are to be known as
14 fiscal notes and dynamic fiscal impact statements.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.88A
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1)(a) For purposes of this chapter, a dynamic fiscal impact
18 statement is: (i) A written statement that includes a dynamic impact
19 estimate of the legislation or proposed legislation; and (ii)
20 contained only in the narrative explanation of the fiscal note and

1 not reflected in the fiscal impact calculation required by RCW
2 43.88A.020.

3 (b) A dynamic fiscal impact statement must include information on
4 the assumptions that were used in computing the dynamic impact
5 estimate. The dynamic impact estimate should, at a minimum, be based
6 on assumptions of the probable behavioral response of persons
7 directly impacted by the legislation or proposed legislation.

8 (2) Dynamic fiscal impact statements may be produced only on
9 request from members of the senate ways and means committee, house
10 ways and means committee, or any successor committee to these
11 committees.

12 (3) Dynamic fiscal impact statements may not be made unless the
13 fiscal note in which it would be contained reflects a positive or
14 negative revenue impact of more than ten million dollars per fiscal
15 year.

16 (4) Requests for dynamic fiscal impact statements must be
17 submitted to the office of financial management at least sixty days
18 before the beginning of a legislative session.

19 (5) Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the
20 provisions of chapter 43.132 RCW.

21 (6) For purposes of this chapter, "dynamic impact estimate" means
22 an estimate of the net fiscal impact of a bill, resolution, or
23 proposed legislation that takes into account behavioral changes of
24 persons directly impacted by the legislation or proposed legislation
25 and the effect that those behavioral changes may have on the economy
26 as a whole. Dynamic impact estimates may take into consideration
27 factors such as the effects of the legislation or proposed
28 legislation on persons to save, spend, invest, and expand or reduce
29 their business activities in this state.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.88A.020 and 2011 c 140 s 1 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1)(a) The office of financial management shall, in cooperation
33 with appropriate legislative committees and legislative staff,
34 establish a procedure for the provision of fiscal notes on the
35 expected impact of bills and resolutions which increase or decrease
36 or tend to increase or decrease state government revenues or
37 expenditures.

38 (b) Beginning January 1, 2017, and if requested by a member of a
39 legislative fiscal committee for legislation projected to result in

1 an increase or decrease in state expenditures exceeding five million
2 dollars, fiscal notes dealing with corrections, child welfare, and
3 mental health issues shall include, in addition to the increases or
4 decreases of state government revenue and expenditures, an estimate
5 of the fiscal impact of expenditure reductions or increases on other
6 state or local program expenditures as well as any return on
7 investment as a result of the legislation.

8 (2) Such fiscal notes shall indicate by fiscal year the impact
9 for the remainder of the biennium in which the bill or resolution
10 will first take effect as well as a cumulative forecast of the fiscal
11 impact for the succeeding four fiscal years.

12 (3) Fiscal notes shall separately identify the fiscal impacts on
13 the operating and capital budgets. Estimates of fiscal impacts shall
14 be calculated using the procedures contained in the fiscal note
15 instructions issued by the office of financial management.

16 (4) In establishing the fiscal impact called for pursuant to this
17 chapter, the office of financial management shall coordinate the
18 development of fiscal notes with all state agencies affected.

19 (5) The preparation and dissemination of the ongoing cost
20 projections and other requirements of RCW 43.135.031 for bills
21 increasing taxes or fees shall take precedence over fiscal notes.

22 (6) For proposed legislation that uniquely affects school
23 districts, in addition to any fiscal note prepared under this
24 chapter, a school district fiscal note must be prepared under the
25 process established in RCW 28A.300.0401.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. (1)(a) The legislature recognizes the
27 increasing importance of having complete information to establish and
28 enforce budgetary priorities, coordinate actions on spending and
29 revenue legislation, and develop budgetary and economic information
30 independently of the executive branch.

31 (b) The legislature finds it is critically important for the
32 legislature to have more information about the longer-term and
33 holistic impact of budget decisions, particularly in light of the
34 four-year balanced budget requirement.

35 (c) The legislature intends to spend public resources in a manner
36 that is transparent and accountable. To accomplish this goal, it
37 needs appropriate fiscal information to make evidence-based
38 investments.

1 (d) The legislature believes that to enhance its ability to make
2 sound fiscal decisions, fiscal notes should include not only the
3 expenditure and revenue data associated with legislation but also the
4 impact of expenditure reductions or increases on other state and
5 local programs, including the rate of return on any fiscal decision
6 the legislature makes.

7 (2)(a) The director of the office of financial management and the
8 director of the Washington state institute for public policy shall
9 convene a work group to explore the establishment of a nonpartisan
10 agency to conduct objective, impartial fiscal analysis on behalf of
11 the legislature. The directors shall be the cochairs of the work
12 group.

13 (b) The work group shall consider whether the Washington state
14 institute for public policy should subsume the functions of impartial
15 fiscal analysis on behalf of the legislature.

16 (c) The work group shall conduct a study of the accuracy and
17 reliability of fiscal notes by examining a sample of fiscal notes on
18 enacted legislation to compare the projected cost of the legislation
19 with the actual costs incurred in the legislation's implementation.

20 (d) The work group shall be comprised of at least the following
21 members:

22 (i) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
23 senate chosen by the president of the senate;

24 (ii) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
25 house of representatives chosen by the speaker of the house of
26 representatives;

27 (iii) One representative from the legislative evaluation and
28 accountability program committee;

29 (iv) One representative from the office of the state treasurer;

30 (v) One representative of the caseload forecast council; and

31 (vi) One representative of the economic and revenue forecast
32 council.

33 (e) The first meeting of the work group shall occur no later than
34 August 1, 2015.

35 (f) The work group shall report its findings and recommendations
36 to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature no
37 later than December 1, 2016.

38 (g) This section expires June 30, 2017.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act expire
2 June 30, 2022.

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