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HOUSE BILL 1927

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Carlson, Karahalios, Shin, Brumsickle, Basich, Silver, Brough, Wood, Hansen, Sehlin, Miller, Thomas and Kremen

Read first time 02/17/93. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to setting an upper limit on general fund--state  
2 appropriations; adding new sections to chapter 43.88 RCW; creating a  
3 new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to  
6 improve the budgeting process for the general fund--state account by  
7 limiting the appropriations for the operating budget based on the  
8 November official state economic and revenue forecast. The purpose of  
9 this act is to specify the maximum funding levels and reduce overall  
10 spending for the budget. It is also the intent of this act that by  
11 setting the appropriations levels in November by agreement of the four  
12 caucuses and one representative from the governor's office that more  
13 effort will be spent on the priorities included in the budget rather  
14 than debating the actual funding levels.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Within five working days, not to exceed one  
16 calendar week, after the November official state economic and revenue  
17 forecast is approved by the economic and revenue forecast council the  
18 budget limitation committee will convene. The budget limitation

1 committee will consist of two representatives from each caucus of the  
2 house of representatives and senate and one participant from the  
3 governor's office. The budget limitation committee shall meet for no  
4 more than ten working days, not to exceed two calendar weeks, to  
5 determine the maximum levels for the general fund--state portions for  
6 each of the major parts of the operating budget. The maximum levels of  
7 funding should be based on available revenue sources for the upcoming  
8 budget.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The appropriation levels of funding  
10 established by the budget limitation committee are the general fund--  
11 state portions for the following parts of the budget: General  
12 government, human resources, natural resources, transportation, K-12  
13 education, higher education, and special appropriations. Also, the  
14 budget limitation committee shall set the frame work for a balanced  
15 budget that will include an ending fund balance of no less than one  
16 percent of the total general fund--state budget. The appropriation  
17 levels must be based on available resources, excluding resource  
18 enhancements such as tax increases, fee increases, or increases in the  
19 costs of permits.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In order to fulfill the state's duty under  
21 Article IX, section 1 of the state Constitution, K-12 education shall  
22 receive no less than fifty percent of the general fund--state  
23 appropriation as set by the budget limitation committee.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The appropriations for each part of the  
25 operating budget passed by the legislature and signed by the governor  
26 may be no more than the levels under section 3 of this act. However,  
27 with the exception of K-12 education under section 4 of this act, all  
28 other areas of the budget may be funded below the levels set by the  
29 budget limitation committee.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The appropriation levels must be passed by  
31 the house of representatives and senate and signed by the governor no  
32 later than January 31st of each year.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If the February or March official state  
34 economic and revenue forecast, as approved, is below the November

1 forecast, then the budget limitation committee shall convene one day  
2 after the approval of the February or March forecast. The budget  
3 limitation committee will amend the appropriation levels to meet the  
4 goals specified in sections 3, 4, and 5 of this act. The budget  
5 limitation committee must complete its agreement within one week of  
6 convening. The amended agreement must be passed by the house of  
7 representatives and senate and signed by the governor no later than  
8 March 30th of each year it is needed.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 2 through 7 of this act are each  
10 added to chapter 43.88 RCW.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
13 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
14 effect immediately.

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