
HOUSE BILL 1834

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Alexander, Haler, Chandler, Bailey and Kretz

Read first time 01/30/2007. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to appropriations legislation; adding new sections
2 to chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The legislature finds that approval of the state budget is the most
7 important act of the legislature in any year, having profound
8 consequences for every resident of the state. The legislature further
9 finds that the public is entitled to a reasonable opportunity to learn
10 how public funds are proposed to be expended before bills making
11 appropriations become law. The legislature further finds that public
12 notice, dissemination of information, and informed analysis of proposed
13 budgets is an essential requisite of transparent, accountable
14 government.

15 The legislature finds that omnibus appropriations bills frequently
16 have been acted on by the legislature in a manner that has afforded
17 little opportunity for public review and information about proposed
18 expenditures, or for members of the legislature to deliberate upon such
19 legislation in an informed and conscientious manner. The legislature

1 finds that this practice has weakened the performance of the
2 legislature in its stewardship of public funds, and reduced public
3 trust in government. The legislature finds that many other states, in
4 their constitutions, statutes, or legislative rules, require an
5 opportunity for public and legislative review of budget legislation.

6 The legislature therefore finds that it is in the public interest
7 to provide for an appropriate period of public and legislative review
8 of all omnibus appropriations bills before they are acted on by the
9 legislature and submitted to the governor for approval.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 An omnibus operating, capital, or transportation appropriations
13 bill, or any other bill that implements an omnibus operating, capital,
14 or transportation appropriations bill and is effective for the same
15 period as such appropriations bill, must be made publicly available to
16 the members of the legislature and the public at least five calendar
17 days before such bill may be voted on by the senate or the house of
18 representatives.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act shall be known and cited as the
20 budget sunshine act of 2007.

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