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HOUSE BILL 2682

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Bailey, Anderson, Haler, Walsh, Schindler, Dunn, Warnick, and Ahern

Read first time 01/15/08. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1            AN ACT Relating to fiscal notes; amending RCW 43.88A.010,  
2 43.88A.030, 43.88A.040, 43.88A.900, and 43.132.060; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 43.88A RCW; and adding a new section to chapter  
4 43.132 RCW.

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

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

8            The legislature hereby recognizes the necessity of developing a  
9 uniform and coordinated procedure for determining the expected fiscal  
10 impact of bills and resolutions on state government and of placing that  
11 information before the legislature before those bills and resolutions  
12 are heard and voted upon. The legislature also recognizes that  
13 developing such statements of fiscal impact, which shall be known as  
14 fiscal notes, requires the designation of a state agency to be  
15 principally responsible therefor.

16            **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.88A.030 and 2008 c 1 s 4 (Initiative Measure No.  
17 960) are each amended to read as follows:

18            When a fiscal note is prepared and approved as to form, accuracy,

1 and completeness by the office of financial management, which depicts  
2 the expected fiscal impact of a bill or resolution, copies shall be  
3 filed immediately with:

- 4 (1) The chairperson of the committee to which the bill or  
5 resolution was referred upon introduction in the house of origin;
- 6 (2) The senate committee on ways and means, or its successor; and
- 7 (3) The house committees on revenue and appropriations, or their  
8 successors.

9 (~~Whenever possible, such~~) Fiscal notes and, in the case of a bill  
10 increasing taxes or fees, the cost projection and other information  
11 required under RCW 43.135.--- (section 2, chapter 1 (Initiative Measure  
12 No. 960), Laws of 2008) shall be provided prior to or at the time the  
13 bill or resolution is first heard by (~~the~~) any committee of reference  
14 in the house of origin.

15 When a fiscal note has been prepared for a bill or resolution, a  
16 copy of the fiscal note shall be placed in the bill books or otherwise  
17 attached to the bill or resolution and shall remain with the bill or  
18 resolution throughout the legislative process (~~insofar as possible~~).  
19 For bills increasing taxes or fees, the cost projection and other  
20 information required by RCW 43.135.--- (section 2, chapter 1  
21 (Initiative Measure No. 960), Laws of 2008) shall be placed in the bill  
22 books or otherwise attached to the bill or resolution and shall remain  
23 with the bill or resolution throughout the legislative process insofar  
24 as possible.

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.88A.040 and 1979 c 151 s 148 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 The office of financial management shall also provide a fiscal note  
28 on any legislative proposal at the request of any legislator. Such  
29 fiscal note shall be returned to the requesting legislator in a timely  
30 manner, and copies shall be filed with the appropriate legislative  
31 committees pursuant to RCW 43.88A.030 at the time such proposed  
32 legislation is introduced in either house.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.88A RCW  
34 to read as follows:

35 (1) Before either house of the legislature may vote on final  
36 passage on a bill that if enacted into law would increase state

1 government expenditures or would increase or decrease state government  
2 revenues, a fiscal note prepared pursuant to RCW 43.88A.020 must be  
3 available on the most recent version of the bill that applies to the  
4 bill as it is to be voted upon. In no case shall the fiscal note be  
5 made available more than seventy-two hours after the bill is placed on  
6 final passage.

7 (2) The requirement in subsection (1) of this section may be  
8 suspended by the applicable house of the legislature with a vote of  
9 sixty percent of the members elected to that house.

10 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.88A.900 and 1977 ex.s. c 25 s 5 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 ~~((Nothing in this chapter shall prevent either house of the  
13 legislature from acting on any bill or resolution before it as  
14 otherwise provided by the state Constitution, by law, and by the rules  
15 and joint rules of the senate and house of representatives, nor shall))~~  
16 In no case may the lack of any fiscal note as provided in this chapter  
17 or any error in the accuracy (~~thereof~~) of such a fiscal note affect  
18 the validity of any measure otherwise duly passed by the legislature.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.132 RCW  
20 to read as follows:

21 (1) Before either house of the legislature may vote on final  
22 passage on a bill that if enacted into law would increase local  
23 government expenditures or would increase or decrease local government  
24 revenues, a fiscal note prepared pursuant to RCW 43.132.020 must be  
25 available that applies to the bill as it is to be voted upon. In no  
26 case shall the fiscal note be made available more than seventy-two  
27 hours after the bill is placed on final passage.

28 (2) The requirement in subsection (1) of this section may be  
29 suspended by the applicable house of the legislature with a vote of  
30 sixty percent of the members elected to that house.

31 **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.132.060 and 2000 c 182 s 4 are each amended to read  
32 as follows:

33 ~~((Nothing in this chapter shall prevent either house of the  
34 legislature from acting on any bill or resolution before it as  
35 otherwise provided by the state Constitution, by law, and by the rules~~

1 ~~of the senate and house of representatives, nor shall))~~ In no case may  
2 the lack of any fiscal note as provided in this chapter or any error in  
3 the accuracy (~~thereof~~) of such a fiscal note affect the validity of  
4 any measure otherwise duly passed by the legislature.

5 (2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not alter the  
6 responsibilities of RCW 43.135.060.

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