
HOUSE BILL 1721

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Pike, Alexander, Wilcox, Harris, Crouse,
Overstreet, Hayes, and Ross

Read first time 02/06/13. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a period of public and legislative
2 review of appropriations legislation; adding new sections to chapter
3 44.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

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

16 The state Constitution charges the legislature, and only the
17 legislature, with the responsibility to fund the operation of state
18 government through the enactment of appropriations legislation. Yet
19 the abbreviated time frame in which the legislature acts on omnibus

1 operating appropriations legislation permits little opportunity for
2 informed legislative deliberation or public review and discussion,
3 which in turn impairs public trust in government. The legislature
4 finds that many other states, in their Constitutions, statutes, or
5 legislative rules, require a reasonable opportunity for public and
6 legislative review of budget legislation.

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

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

13 (1) An omnibus operating, capital, or transportation appropriations
14 bill, may not be voted on by the senate or the house of representatives
15 unless seventy-two hours have elapsed since the bill was last subject
16 to amendment.

17 (2) For the purposes of this section, "amendment" means any
18 proposed change to a bill and includes executive action by a standing
19 committee of the senate or house of representatives, adoption of a
20 conference report, or vote to concur with an opposite house amendment.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act shall be known and cited as the
22 budget sunshine act.

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