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**SENATE BILL 5963**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Rolfes

1 AN ACT Relating to the state budget outlook; amending RCW  
2 82.33.060; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 82.33.060 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 8 s 4 are each  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) To facilitate compliance with, and subject to the terms of,  
7 RCW 43.88.055, the state budget outlook work group shall prepare,  
8 subject to the approval of the economic and revenue forecast council  
9 under RCW 82.33.010, an official state budget outlook for state  
10 revenues and expenditures for the general fund and related funds. In  
11 odd-numbered years, the period covered by the November state budget  
12 outlook shall be the current fiscal biennium and the next ensuing  
13 fiscal biennium. In even-numbered years, the period covered by the  
14 November state budget outlook shall be the next two ensuing fiscal  
15 biennia. The revenue and caseload projections used in the outlook  
16 must reflect the most recent official forecasts adopted by the  
17 economic and revenue forecast council and the caseload forecast  
18 council for the years for which those forecasts are available.

19 (2) The outlook must:

20 (a) Estimate revenues to and expenditures from the state general  
21 fund and related funds. The estimate of ensuing biennium expenditures

1 must include maintenance items including, but not limited to,  
2 continuation of current programs, forecasted growth of current  
3 entitlement programs, and actions required by law, including  
4 legislation with a future implementation date. Beginning in the  
5 2019-2021 fiscal biennium, estimates of maintenance items for the  
6 ensuing biennium expenditures must also include an inflationary  
7 increase to salaries of public employees and wages and rates for  
8 providers considered employees solely for the purposes of collective  
9 bargaining that is based on the implicit price deflator, compiled by  
10 the bureau of economic analysis, United States department of  
11 commerce. Estimates of ensuing biennium expenditures must exclude  
12 policy items including, but not limited to, legislation not yet  
13 enacted by the legislature, collective bargaining agreements not yet  
14 approved by the legislature, and changes to levels of funding for  
15 employee salaries and benefits unless those changes are required by  
16 statute. Estimated maintenance level expenditures must also exclude  
17 costs of court rulings issued during or within fewer than ninety days  
18 before the beginning of the current legislative session;

19 (b) Address major budget and revenue drivers, including trends  
20 and variability in these drivers;

21 (c) Clearly state the assumptions used in the estimates of  
22 baseline and projected expenditures and any adjustments made to those  
23 estimates;

24 (d) Clearly state the assumptions used in the baseline revenue  
25 estimates and any adjustments to those estimates; and

26 (e) Include the impact of previously enacted legislation with a  
27 future implementation date.

28 (3) The outlook must also separately include projections based on  
29 the revenues and expenditures proposed in the governor's budget  
30 documents submitted to the legislature under RCW 43.88.030.

31 (4) The economic and revenue forecast council shall submit state  
32 budget outlooks prepared under this section to the governor and the  
33 members of the committees on ways and means of the senate and house  
34 of representatives, including one copy to the staff of each of the  
35 committees, as required by this section.

36 (5) Each January, the state budget outlook work group shall also  
37 prepare, subject to the approval of the economic and revenue forecast  
38 council, a state budget outlook for state revenues and expenditures  
39 that reflects the governor's proposed budget document submitted to  
40 the legislature under chapter 43.88 RCW. Within thirty days following

1 enactment of an operating budget by the legislature, the work group  
2 shall prepare, subject to the approval of the economic and revenue  
3 forecast council, a state budget outlook for state revenues and  
4 expenditures that reflects the enacted budget.

5 (6) All agencies of state government shall provide to the  
6 supervisor immediate access to all information relating to state  
7 budget outlooks.

8 (7) The state budget outlook work group must publish its proposed  
9 methodology on the economic and revenue forecast council web site.  
10 The state budget outlook work group, in consultation with the  
11 economic and revenue forecast work group and outside experts if  
12 necessary, must analyze the extent to which the proposed methodology  
13 for projecting expenditures for the ensuing fiscal biennia may be  
14 reliably used to determine the future impact of appropriations and  
15 make recommendations to change the outlook process to increase  
16 reliability and accuracy. The recommendations are due by December 1,  
17 2013, and every five years thereafter.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
20 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
21 effect immediately.

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