
DIGEST

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HB 614 Original

2021 Regular Session

Geymann

Abstract: Provides requirements and restrictions on the construction and passage of the general appropriation bill each year.

Present law (R.S. 39:22) establishes the Revenue Estimating Conference ("REC") and provides for its composition.

Proposed law retains present law and provides new duties for REC to perform. Requires REC to certify by a unanimous vote that a bill appropriating money meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) Contains no appropriation of nonrecurring revenues for any purpose other than those authorized pursuant to present constitution (Article VII, Section 10(D)(2)).
- (2) Contains no contingent appropriation.
- (3) That appropriations in the bill of state general fund and dedicated funds, in the aggregate, do not exceed the expenditure limit or the official forecast in effect at the time the appropriations are made.

Requires such certification prior to receipt by the Senate of any bill appropriating money, concurrence by the House in such a bill, and adoption of a conference committee report on such a bill.

Proposed law further requires that prior to submission to the legislature of the governor's proposed executive budget, REC must certify by unanimous vote that the proposal meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) That proposed appropriations of state general fund and dedicated funds, in the aggregate, do not exceed the expenditure limit or the official forecast in effect at the time the appropriations are made.
- (2) That the proposal does not use nonrecurring revenues for purposes other than those authorized pursuant to present constitution (Article VII, Section 10(D)(2) of the state constitution).
- (3) That the proposal does not contain contingent appropriations.

Defines the phrase "state general fund and dedicated funds" for the purposes of proposed law to mean all money required to be deposited in the state treasury, except that money the origin of which is:

- (1) The federal government.
- (2) Self-generated collections by any entity subject to the policy and management authority established by present constitution (Article VIII, Sections 5 through 7).
- (3) A transfer from another state agency, board, or commission.

Present law (R.S. 39:36) provides requirements for the content and format of the governor's executive budget proposal. Proposed law adds the requirement that the proposal contain a statement that REC has certified the proposal prior to its submission to the legislature in accordance with proposed law.

Present law (R.S. 39:51) requires the governor to cause a "General Appropriation Bill" to be introduced. Present law provides that such bill shall provide for the ordinary operating expenses of government. Proposed law changes this to the ordinary operating expenses of the executive branch of state government.

Further prohibits the legislature each year from finally passing any legislation that has the effect of law until the General Appropriation Bill has been finally passed.

Effective July 1, 2021.

(Amends R.S. 39:22(A)(intro. para.) and 51(A)(1) and adds R.S. 39:22(B)-(D), 36(A)(8), and 51(H))