

SENATE BILL 293

B1, P5
HB 420/17 – APP

8lr0152
CF HB 348

By: **The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators Bates, Cassilly, Eckardt, Edwards, Hershey, Hough, Jennings, Ready, Reilly, Salling, Serafini, and Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2018

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commonsense Spending Act of 2018**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that, beginning in a certain fiscal year, any appropriation
4 that increases by operation of law is required to have its mandated level of spending
5 increased by the lesser of the amount of the existing formula calculation or a certain
6 percentage; providing for certain exceptions; providing that the General Assembly
7 may not enact certain legislation that creates a certain mandated level of funding
8 except under certain circumstances; and generally relating to mandated funding for
9 certain programs or items in the State budget.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
11 That:

12 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law that requires the Governor to include a
13 certain level of funding in the annual budget bill for a specific program or item, and
14 notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as provided in subsection (b) of this
15 section, beginning in fiscal year 2020 any appropriation that would increase by operation
16 of law shall have its mandated level of spending increased by the lesser of:

17 (1) the amount of the existing formula calculation; or

18 (2) an amount equal to 1% less than the reported amount of General Fund
19 revenue growth in the report submitted by the Board of Revenue Estimates to the Governor
20 under § 6–106(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article for December.

21 (b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to:

22 (1) funding required for State aid to public elementary and secondary
23 education as provided under Title 5, Subtitle 2 or § 4–121, § 4–122, § 6–306, § 8–313, §

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 8–3A–09, or § 8–415 of the Education Article;

2 (2) any appropriation required to be made to the Revenue Stabilization
3 Account under § 7–311 of the State Finance and Procurement Article;

4 (3) any appropriation required for the payment of principal or interest on
5 State debt; or

6 (4) any appropriation required for the State’s employer contribution to the
7 State Retirement and Pension System required under § 21–308 of the State Personnel and
8 Pensions Article.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly may
10 not enact legislation that creates a new required level of funding in the annual budget bill
11 for a future fiscal year for a specific program or item or increases a required level of funding
12 in the annual budget bill for a future fiscal year for a specific program or item unless it also
13 enacts legislation at that same session that reduces or repeals an equivalent amount of
14 required funding for the same fiscal year.

15 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
16 1, 2018.