
SENATE BILL 5163

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Frockt, Conway, Liiias, and Darneille

1 AN ACT Relating to unknown changes to the federal affordable care
2 act and the four-year balanced budget requirement; amending RCW
3 43.88.055; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The 2017 congress is currently debating
6 the repeal of the federal patient protection and affordable care act,
7 which may create significant changes in coverage for state residents
8 and a sizable budgetary impact that may be as much as three billion
9 dollars a year in federal medicaid funding, as well as funding for
10 other coverage programs. Congress has not yet provided any detailed
11 overview of their intentions and the time frames for program and
12 budgetary changes. Any attempt to budget for unknown reductions and
13 project a four-year outlook is impossible without detailed
14 information from congress. To ensure budget stability and allow the
15 most judicious consideration of potential impacts to the state
16 budget, the legislature therefore intends to provide an exemption
17 from the four-year outlook requirements for the medicaid budget until
18 such time that detailed budgetary and programmatic impacts are made
19 in federal law.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.88.055 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 8 s 1 are each
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (1) The legislature must adopt a four-year balanced budget as
4 follows:

5 (a) Beginning in the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the legislature
6 shall enact a balanced omnibus operating appropriations bill that
7 leaves, in total, a positive ending fund balance in the general fund
8 and related funds.

9 (b) Beginning in the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the projected
10 maintenance level of the omnibus appropriations bill enacted by the
11 legislature shall not exceed the available fiscal resources for the
12 next ensuing fiscal biennium.

13 (2) For purposes of this section:

14 (a) "Available fiscal resources" means the beginning general fund
15 and related fund balances and any fiscal resources estimated for the
16 general fund and related funds, adjusted for enacted legislation, and
17 with forecasted revenues adjusted to the greater of (i) the official
18 general fund and related funds revenue forecast for the ensuing
19 biennium, or (ii) the official general fund and related funds
20 forecast for the second fiscal year of the current fiscal biennium,
21 increased by 4.5 percent for each fiscal year of the ensuing
22 biennium;

23 (b) "Projected maintenance level" means estimated appropriations
24 necessary to maintain the continuing costs of program and service
25 levels either funded in that appropriations bill or mandated by other
26 state or federal law, and the amount of any general fund moneys
27 projected to be transferred to the budget stabilization account
28 pursuant to Article VII, section 12 of the state Constitution, but
29 does not include in the 2013-2015 and 2015-2017 fiscal biennia the
30 costs related to the enhanced funding under the new definition of
31 basic education as established in chapter 548, Laws of 2009, and
32 affirmed by the decision in *Mathew McCleary et al., v. The State of*
33 *Washington*, 173 Wn.2d 477, 269 P.3d 227, (2012), from which the
34 short-term exclusion of these obligations is solely for the purposes
35 of calculating this estimate and does not in any way indicate an
36 intent to avoid full funding of these obligations, and for the
37 2017-2019 and 2019-2021 fiscal biennia the costs related to
38 maintaining medicaid programs, services, and eligibility until
39 detailed budgetary and programmatic changes are made in federal law;

1 (c) "Related funds," as used in this section, means the
2 Washington opportunity pathways account and the education legacy
3 trust account.

4 (3) Subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section does not apply to
5 an appropriations bill that makes net reductions in general fund and
6 related funds appropriations and is enacted between July 1st and
7 February 15th of any fiscal year.

8 (4) Subsection (1)(b) of this section does not apply in a fiscal
9 biennium in which money is appropriated from the budget stabilization
10 account.

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