

## SENATE BILL NO. 483

INTRODUCED BY KEENAN, ZOOK

BY REQUEST OF THE SENATE FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS CONCERNING THE BUDGET AND BUDGET ANALYSIS; ~~PROVIDING FOR THE PRINTING, PUBLICATION, AND SALE OF THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST'S BUDGET ANALYSIS;~~ REQUIRING THE STATE TREASURER TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE STATE WEBSITE ON HOW TO DONATE FUNDS TO ANY STATE FUNCTION; ~~REVISING THE DEFINITION OF BASE BUDGET TO REFLECT 90-95 PERCENT OF CURRENT GENERAL FUND AND STATE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND LEVELS;~~ REQUIRING A POSITIVE GENERAL FUND ENDING BALANCE AT THE END OF A BIENNIUM; REVISING THE DEFINITION OF "PROJECTED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DEFICIT"; AND AMENDING SECTIONS ~~5-12-302;~~ 17-1-111, 17-7-102, ~~17-7-111;~~ 17-7-131, AND 17-7-140, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

~~Section 1.~~ Section 5-12-302, MCA, is amended to read:

~~"5-12-302. Fiscal analyst's duties. (1)~~ The legislative fiscal analyst shall:

~~(1)(a)~~ provide for fiscal analysis of state government and accumulate, compile, analyze, and furnish information bearing upon the financial matters of the state that is relevant to issues of policy and questions of statewide importance, including but not limited to investigation and study of the possibilities of effecting economy and efficiency in state government;

~~(2)(b)~~ estimate revenue from existing and proposed taxes;

~~(3)(c)~~ analyze the executive budget and budget requests of selected state agencies and institutions, including proposals for the construction of capital improvements;

~~(4)(d)~~ make the reports and recommendations that the legislative fiscal analyst considers desirable to the legislature and make reports and recommendations as requested by the legislative finance committee and the legislature;

~~(5)(e)~~ assist committees of the legislature and individual legislators in compiling and analyzing financial information; and

~~(6)(f)~~ assist the revenue and transportation interim committee in performing its revenue estimating duties.

~~(2) (a) The legislative fiscal analyst shall publish the analysis provided for in subsection (1)(c) in a printed format. The legislative finance committee, with the advice of the legislative fiscal analyst, shall decide on the quantity, quality, style, format, and grade of the publication prior to having the legislative fiscal analyst call for bids for the printing and binding and contract for the publication. The legislative fiscal analyst shall follow the requirements of state law relating to contracts and bids, except as provided in this section.~~

~~(b) The methods of sale to the public of the budget analysis may be included as an alternative specification and bid and as a part of a contract to be let by bids by the legislative fiscal analyst.~~

~~(c) The sales price to the public of the budget analysis must be fixed by the legislative finance committee but may not exceed the cost price plus 25%. All revenue generated from the sale of the budget analysis must be deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund. Appropriations from the fund may be made for the use of the office and facilities of the legislative fiscal analyst under this chapter.~~

~~(d) Copies of the budget analysis purchased by the state, Montana local governmental agencies that are supported by public funds, and nonprofit organizations may not exceed the cost price of the sets plus 5%.~~

~~(e) (i) One copy of the budget analysis must be provided at no cost to the following:~~

~~(A) each library designated as a depository library under 22-1-214;~~

~~(B) each library designated as a federation headquarters library under 22-1-402.~~

~~(ii) The state law library in Helena must be provided with four copies of the budget analysis.~~

~~(iii) The legislative finance committee shall include in the cost price of the budget analysis the cost of providing the copies under this subsection (2)(e)."~~

**SECTION 1. SECTION 17-1-111, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:**

**"17-1-111. General fiscal duties of state treasurer.** (1) The state treasurer is the custodian of all money and securities of the state unless otherwise expressly provided by law.

(2) It is the duty of the state treasurer to:

(a) receive and account for all money belonging to the state, not expressly required by law to be received and kept by some other person;

(b) pay warrants out of the funds upon which they are drawn;

(c) upon payment of any warrant, record the receipt of the person to whom it is paid;

(d) keep an account of all money received and disbursed;

(e) at the request of either house of the legislature or of any legislative committee, give information in writing as to the condition of the treasury or on any subject relating to the duties of the office of state treasurer;

- (f) superintend the fiscal concerns of the state;
- (g) suggest plans for the improvement and management of the public revenue;
- (h) keep an account of all warrants drawn upon the treasury and of other appropriation records that the treasurer determines to be essential for the support of the accounting records maintained in the department;
- (i) keep a register of warrants, showing the fund upon which each warrant is drawn, each warrant's number, who received the warrant, and the date issued;
- (j) require all persons who have received money belonging to the state but who have not accounted for it to settle their accounts;
- (k) draw warrants on the state treasury for the payment of money directed by law to be paid out of the treasury, except that a warrant may not be drawn unless authorized by law;
- (l) authenticate with the official seal of the state all warrants drawn and all copies of papers issued from the office of state treasurer;
- (m) collect and pay into the state treasury all fees received; and
- (n) discharge other duties as may be imposed upon the state treasurer by law; and
- (o) provide information through the state's official internet website detailing how donations can be made to the state general fund or to any function of state government."

**Section 2.** Section 17-7-102, MCA, is amended to read:

**"17-7-102. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Additional services" means different services or more of the same services.
- (2) "Agency" means all offices, departments, boards, commissions, institutions, universities, colleges, and any other person or any other administrative unit of state government that spends or encumbers public money by virtue of an appropriation from the legislature under 17-8-101.
- (3) "Approving authority" means:
  - (a) the governor or the governor's designated representative for executive branch agencies;
  - (b) the chief justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's designated representative for judicial branch agencies;
  - (c) the speaker for the house of representatives;
  - (d) the president for the senate;
  - (e) appropriate legislative committees or a designated representative for legislative branch agencies;

or

(f) the board of regents of higher education or its designated representative for the university system.

(4) "Base budget" means the resources for the operation of state government that are of an ongoing and nonextraordinary nature in the current biennium. The base budget for the state general fund and state special revenue funds may not exceed ~~90%~~ 95% of that level of funding authorized by the previous legislature.

(5) "Budget amendment" means a temporary appropriation as provided in Title 17, chapter 7, part 4.

(6) "Emergency" means a catastrophe, disaster, calamity, or other serious unforeseen and unanticipated circumstance that has occurred subsequent to the time that an agency's appropriation was made, that was clearly not within the contemplation of the legislature and the governor, and that affects one or more functions of a state agency and the agency's expenditure requirements for the performance of the function or functions.

(7) "Funds subject to appropriation" means those funds required to be paid out of the treasury as set forth in 17-8-101.

(8) "Necessary" means essential to the public welfare and of a nature that cannot wait until the next legislative session for legislative consideration.

(9) "New proposals" means requests to provide new nonmandated services, to change program services, to eliminate existing services, or to change sources of funding. For purposes of establishing the present law base, the distinction between new proposals and the adjustments to the base budget to develop the present law base is to be determined by the existence of constitutional or statutory requirements for the proposed expenditure. Any proposed increase or decrease that is not based on those requirements is considered a new proposal.

(10) "Present law base" means that level of funding needed under present law to maintain operations and services at the level authorized by the previous legislature, including but not limited to:

- (a) changes resulting from legally mandated workload, caseload, or enrollment increases or decreases;
- (b) changes in funding requirements resulting from constitutional or statutory schedules or formulas;
- (c) inflationary or deflationary adjustments; and
- (d) elimination of nonrecurring appropriations.

(11) "Program" means a principal organizational or budgetary unit within an agency.

(12) "Requesting agency" means the agency of state government that has requested a specific budget amendment.

(13) "University system unit" means the board of regents of higher education; office of the commissioner of higher education; university of Montana, with campuses at Missoula, Butte, Dillon, and Helena; Montana state university, with campuses at Bozeman, Billings, Havre, and Great Falls; the agricultural experiment station, with central offices at Bozeman; the forest and conservation experiment station, with central offices at Missoula; the

cooperative extension service, with central offices at Bozeman; the bureau of mines and geology, with central offices at Butte; the fire services training school at Great Falls; and the community colleges at Miles City, Glendive, and Kalispell."

~~SECTION 3. SECTION 17-7-111, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:~~

~~"17-7-111. Preparation of state budget -- agency program budgets -- form distribution and~~

~~contents. (1) (a) To prepare a state budget, the executive branch, the legislature, and the citizens of the state need information that is consistent and accurate. Necessary information includes detailed disbursements by fund type for each agency and program for the appropriate time period, recommendations for creating a balanced budget, and recommended disbursements and estimated receipts by fund type and fund category.~~

~~(b) Subject to the requirements of this chapter, the budget director and the legislative fiscal analyst shall by agreement:~~

~~(i) establish necessary standards, formats, and other matters necessary to share information between the agencies and to ensure that information is consistent and accurate for the preparation of the state's budget; and~~

~~(ii) provide for the collection and provision of budgetary and financial information that is in addition to or different from the information otherwise required to be provided pursuant to this section.~~

~~(2) In the preparation of a state budget, the budget director shall, not later than the date specified in 17-7-112(1), distribute to all agencies the proper forms and instructions necessary for the preparation of budget estimates by the budget director. These forms must be prescribed by the budget director to procure the information required by subsection (3). The forms must be submitted to the budget director by the date provided in 17-7-112(2)(a) or the agency's budget is subject to preparation based upon estimates as provided in 17-7-112(5). The budget director may refuse to accept forms that do not comply with the provisions of this section or the instructions given for completing the forms.~~

~~(3) The agency budget request must set forth a balanced financial plan for the agency completing the forms for each fiscal year of the ensuing biennium. The plan must consist of:~~

~~(a) a consolidated agency budget summary of funds subject to appropriation or enterprise funds that transfer profits to the general fund or to an account subject to appropriation for the current base budget expenditures, including statutory appropriations, and for each present law adjustment and new proposal request setting forth the aggregate figures of the full-time equivalent personnel positions (FTE) and the budget, showing a balance between the total proposed disbursements and the total anticipated receipts, together with the other~~

means of financing the budget for each fiscal year of the ensuing biennium, contrasted with the corresponding figures for the last completed fiscal year and the fiscal year in progress;

~~—— (b) a schedule of the actual and projected receipts, disbursements, and solvency of each fund for the current biennium and estimated for the subsequent biennium;~~

~~—— (c) a statement of the agency mission and a statement of goals and objectives for each program of the agency. The goals and objectives must include, in a concise form, sufficient specific information and quantifiable information to enable the legislature to formulate an appropriations policy regarding the agency and its programs and to allow a determination, at some future date, on whether the agency has succeeded in attaining its goals and objectives.~~

~~—— (d) actual FTE and disbursements for the completed fiscal year of the current biennium, estimated FTE and disbursements for the current fiscal year, and the agency's request for the ensuing biennium, by program;~~

~~—— (e) actual disbursements for the completed fiscal year of the current biennium, estimated disbursements for the current fiscal year, and the agency's recommendations for the ensuing biennium, by disbursement category;~~

~~—— (f) for only agencies with more than 20 FTE, a plan to reduce the proposed base budget for the general appropriations act and the proposed state pay plan to 95% of the current base budget or lower if directed by the budget director. Each agency plan must include base budget reductions that reflect the required percentage reduction by fund type for the general fund and state special revenue fund types. The plan must include:~~

~~—— (i) a prioritized list of services that would be eliminated or reduced;~~

~~—— (ii) for each service included in the prioritized list, the savings that would result from the elimination or reduction; and~~

~~—— (iii) the consequences or impacts of the proposed elimination or reduction of each service.~~

~~—— (g)(f) a reference for each new information technology proposal stating whether the new proposal is included in the approved agency information technology plan as required in 2-17-523; and~~

~~—— (h)(g) other information the budget director feels is necessary for the preparation of a budget.~~

~~—— (4) The budget director shall prepare and submit to the legislative fiscal analyst in accordance with 17-7-112:~~

~~—— (a) detailed recommendations for the state long-range building program. Each recommendation must be presented by institution, agency, or branch, by funding source, with a description of each proposed project.~~

~~—— (b) a statewide summary of recommendations for information technology projects and new initiatives. Each recommendation must be presented by institution, agency, or branch and by funding source, and~~

~~recommendations for major new information technology projects must contain the information identified in 2-17-526.~~

~~———— (c) the proposed pay plan schedule for all executive branch employees at the program level by fund, with the specific cost and funding recommendations for each agency. Submission of a pay plan schedule under this subsection is not an unfair labor practice under 39-31-401.~~

~~———— (d) agency proposals for the use of cultural and aesthetic project grants under Title 22, chapter 2, part 3, the renewable resource grant and loan program under Title 85, chapter 1, part 6, the reclamation and development grants program under Title 90, chapter 2, part 11, and the treasure state endowment program under Title 90, chapter 6, part 7.~~

~~———— (5) The board of regents shall submit, with its budget request for each university unit in accordance with 17-7-112, a report on the university system bonded indebtedness and related finances as provided in this subsection (5). The report must include the following information for each year of the biennium, contrasted with the same information for the last completed fiscal year and the fiscal year in progress:~~

~~———— (a) a schedule of estimated total bonded indebtedness for each university unit by bond indenture;~~

~~———— (b) a schedule of estimated revenue, expenditures, and fund balances by fiscal year for each outstanding bond indenture, clearly delineating the accounts relating to each indenture and the minimum legal funding requirements for each bond indenture; and~~

~~———— (c) a schedule showing the total funds available from each bond indenture and its associated accounts, with a list of commitments and planned expenditures from such accounts, itemized by revenue source and project for each year of the current and ensuing bienniums.~~

~~———— (6) The budget director may not obtain copies of individual income tax records protected under 15-30-303. The department of revenue shall make individual income tax data available by removing names, addresses, occupations, social security numbers, and taxpayer identification numbers. The department of revenue may not alter the data in any other way. The data is subject to the same restrictions on disclosure as are individual income tax returns."~~

**Section 3.** Section 17-7-131, MCA, is amended to read:

**"17-7-131. Legislative action -- ending fund balance.** (1) The presiding officers of the house of representatives and of the senate shall promptly refer the budgets and budget bills to the proper committees. The budget bill for the maintenance of the agencies of state government and the state institutions ~~shall~~ must be based upon the budget and proposed budget bill ~~so~~ submitted at the request of the governor. The legislature may

amend the proposed budget bill, but it may not amend the proposed budget bill so as to affect either the obligations of the state or the payment of any salaries required to be paid by the constitution and laws of the state.

(2) The adopted budget must be limited so that a positive ending general fund balance exists at the end of the biennium for which funds are appropriated."

**Section 4.** Section 17-7-140, MCA, is amended to read:

**"17-7-140. Reduction in spending.** (1) (a) As the chief budget officer of the state, the governor shall ensure that the expenditure of appropriations does not exceed available revenue. Except as provided in subsection (2), in the event of a projected general fund budget deficit, the governor, taking into account the criteria provided in subsection (1)(b), shall direct agencies to reduce spending in an amount that ensures that the projected ending general fund balance for the biennium will be at least 1% of all general fund appropriations during the biennium. An agency may not be required to reduce general fund spending for any program, as defined in each general appropriations act, by more than 10% during a biennium. Departments or agencies headed by elected officials or the board of regents may not be required to reduce general fund spending by a percentage greater than the percentage of general fund spending reductions required for the total of all other executive branch agencies. The legislature may exempt from a reduction an appropriation item within a program or may direct that the appropriation item may not be reduced by more than 10%.

(b) The governor shall direct agencies to manage their budgets in order to reduce general fund expenditures. Prior to directing agencies to reduce spending as provided in subsection (1)(a), the governor shall direct each agency to analyze the nature of each program that receives a general fund appropriation to determine whether the program is mandatory or permissive and to analyze the impact of the proposed reduction in spending on the purpose of the program. An agency shall submit its analysis to the office of budget and program planning and shall at the same time provide a copy of the analysis to the legislative fiscal analyst. The office of budget and program planning shall review each agency's analysis, and the budget director shall submit to the governor a copy of the office of budget and program planning's recommendations for reductions in spending. The budget director shall provide a copy of the recommendations to the legislative fiscal analyst at the time that the recommendations are submitted to the governor and shall provide the legislative fiscal analyst with any proposed changes to the recommendations. The legislative finance committee shall meet within 20 days of the date that the proposed changes to the recommendations for reductions in spending are provided to the legislative fiscal analyst. The legislative fiscal analyst shall provide a copy of the legislative fiscal analyst's review of the proposed reductions in spending to the budget director at least 5 days before the meeting of the legislative finance



committee. The committee may make recommendations concerning the proposed reductions in spending. The governor shall consider each agency's analysis and the recommendations of the office of budget and program planning and the legislative finance committee in determining the agency's reduction in spending. Reductions in spending must be designed to have the least adverse impact on the provision of services determined to be most integral to the discharge of the agency's statutory responsibilities.

(2) Reductions in spending for the following may not be directed by the governor:

- (a) payment of interest and principal on state debt;
- (b) the legislative branch;
- (c) the judicial branch;
- (d) the school BASE funding program, including special education; and
- (e) salaries of elected officials during their terms of office.

(3) (a) As used in this section, "projected general fund budget deficit" means an amount, certified by the budget director to the governor, by which the projected ending general fund balance for the biennium is less than:

(i) 2% of the general fund appropriations for the second fiscal year of the biennium prior to October of the year preceding a legislative session;

(ii) 3/4 of 1% in October of the year preceding a legislative session;

(iii) 1/2 of 1% in January of the year in which a legislative session is convened; and

(iv) 1/4 of 1% in March of the year in which a legislative session is convened.

(b) In determining the amount of the projected general fund budget deficit, the budget director shall take into account revenue, established levels of appropriation, anticipated supplemental appropriations for school equalization aid, and anticipated reversions.

~~(b)(4)~~ If the budget director determines that an amount of actual or projected receipts will result in an amount less than the amount projected to be received in the revenue estimate established pursuant to 5-18-107, the budget director shall notify the revenue and transportation interim committee of the estimated amount. Within 20 days of notification, the revenue and transportation interim committee shall provide the budget director with any recommendations concerning the amount. The budget director shall consider any recommendations of the revenue and transportation interim committee prior to certifying a projected general fund budget deficit to the governor."

- END -

