

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Makes a number of changes in laws governing access to executive budget data and presentation of budget information by the executive to the legislature. Strikes the specific dollar amount in the budget reserve account, and provides that money must be allocated to the account until it reaches five percent of biennial general fund expenditures and transfers for the biennium.

Section

- 1 Findings.** States legislative finding that direct legislative access to the programmatic and human resource capacity of state agencies is necessary to effectively determine state revenue and appropriation levels.
- 2 Duties; planning and fiscal policy.** Requires the Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy to develop and make requests to state agencies for budget information and recommendations.
- 3 Budget information requests.** Requires that after November 30 each year, upon request of the Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy, a state agency must provide the Commission its recommendations for changes to the current biennial budget or agency base budget.
- 4 Legislative and budget proposal data.** Amends the government data practices act section dealing with executive branch legislative and budget proposals. Under the current law, after the budget is presented to the legislature, supporting data, including agency requests (but not preliminary drafts) are public data. Under this bill, once the budget is presented to the legislature, legislative and budget proposals, including preliminary drafts, would be public.

Section

- 5 Agency budget information.** Requires that when the administration communicates a general solicitation to state agencies for budget recommendations, a copy of agency responses must be provide to the chair of the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee. Requires the commissioner of finance to keep a record of all information developed by agencies regarding changes from the appropriation base budget, and requires that record to be submitted to budget committees of the legislature within one week after the Governor must submit detailed operating budget recommendations to the legislature.
- 6 Cash flow forecast.** Requires that within two weeks of the November budget forecast, the commissioner of finance must deliver to the Governor and the legislature a forecast of cash flow for the general fund.
- 7 Operating budget modifications.** Requires that any modifications to the operating budget made necessary by the forecast in February of an odd-numbered year must be submitted to the legislature within two weeks after that forecast.
- 8 Detailed budget.** Requires that in detailed budget documents, the tables listing expenditures for the next biennium must show the appropriation base for each year in column form broken down by appropriation allotments at budget activity level relative to proposed appropriation and allotment levels by budget activity. Requires that detailed estimates provide a spending trend analysis by program showing at least two years of spending history.
- 9 Deficiency requests.** Requires that by January 15 each year, the commissioner of finance must notify the chairs of the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee of any budget change requests requiring priority attention to eliminate budget shortfalls likely to occur before the end of the legislative session, or for which legislative inaction would result in the suspension of agency or program operations.
- 10 Budget reserve account.** Strikes the specific amount of \$653 million in the budget reserve account, and instead provides that money must be allocated to the account until the amount in the account equals five percent of biennial general fund expenditures and transfers for the current biennium.
- 11 Repealer.** Repeals:
- 16A.152, subdivision 1b: required transfers to the budget reserve account on July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004 .
 - 16A.1522, subdivision 4: any positive unrestricted budgetary general fund balance on June 30 of an odd-numbered year is transferred to the tax relief account.