



Senate Finance Committee

Senator John H. Eichelberger, Jr.
Chairman



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ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 70, P.N. 502

SPONSOR: Bartolotta

SYNOPSIS:

Amends the Pennsylvania Constitution to effectuate the provisions of the “Taxpayer Protection Act” providing for limitations on growth in state government spending.

SUMMARY/ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 70 would add Section 18 to Article VIII of the Pennsylvania Constitution to place limitations on state government spending growth. That Section would provide:

“The spending appropriation limit for any fiscal year shall be equal to total appropriations made during the immediately prior fiscal year, adjusted by the lesser of:

(i) the average percentage change in personal income in Pennsylvania for the three preceding calendar years as reported by the Federal Government or as determined pursuant to an act of the General Assembly; or

(ii) the average percentage change in inflation for the three preceding calendar years plus the average percentage change in the State population for the three preceding years as reported by the annual Federal census estimates and adjusted every decade to match the official Federal census.”

Similar to SB7, Section 18 would provide that the limit may be exceeded to:

- (1) respond to a declared emergency, if the General Assembly approves by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each House; or
- (2) in other situations if the Governor so requests at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year and the General Assembly approves by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each House.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

A constitutional amendment must be passed by the General Assembly in two successive sessions. Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of a proposed constitutional amendment the Secretary of the Commonwealth must comply with the advertising requirements of the Pennsylvania Constitution. Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of a proposed constitutional amendment the Secretary of the Commonwealth must comply with the advertising requirements of the Pennsylvania Constitution and submit the proposed amendment to the electorate.

Derr 4/20/15