

By: Watson

S.B. No. 697

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a state budgeting plan to foster this state's economic
3 health.

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

5 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "committee" means the
6 State Budgeting Plan Legislative Advisory Committee established
7 under Section 2 of this Act.

8 SECTION 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF STATE BUDGETING
9 PLAN LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The State Budgeting Plan
10 Legislative Advisory Committee is composed of 17 members as
11 follows:

12 (1) the chair and vice chair of the Senate Committee on
13 Finance;

14 (2) the chair of the House Appropriations Committee;

15 (3) the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee;

16 (4) one public member appointed by the lieutenant
17 governor;

18 (5) one public member appointed by the speaker of the
19 house of representatives; and

20 (6) 11 members appointed by the governor, as follows:

21 (A) three selected from a list of 10 names of
22 persons recommended by the Metro 8 Chambers of Commerce;

23 (B) one selected from a list of five names of
24 persons recommended by the Texas Medical Association;

1 (C) one selected from a list of five names of
2 persons recommended by the Texas Hospital Association;

3 (D) one selected from a list of five names of
4 persons recommended by the Texas Association of School Boards;

5 (E) one selected from a list of five names of
6 persons recommended by the Texas affiliate of the American
7 Federation of Teachers (Texas AFT);

8 (F) one selected from a list of five names of
9 persons recommended by the United Ways of Texas;

10 (G) one selected from a list of five names of
11 persons recommended as follows:

12 (i) one by the Texas Public Employees
13 Association;

14 (ii) one by the Texas State Employees
15 Union;

16 (iii) one by the Department of Public
17 Safety Officers Association;

18 (iv) one by the American Federation of
19 State, County and Municipal Employees; and

20 (v) one by the Retired State Employees
21 Association; and

22 (H) two persons the governor determines are
23 appropriate.

24 (b) Each entity specified by Subsection (a)(6) of this
25 section to recommend a person or persons for consideration for an
26 appointment shall make the recommendation not later than October 1,
27 2011.

1 (c) A person specified by Subsection (a) of this section to
2 appoint a committee member shall make the appointment not later
3 than November 1, 2011.

4 (d) The governor shall select one member of the committee to
5 serve as the chair and another member to serve as the vice chair.

6 (e) The committee shall meet at the call of the chair.

7 (f) A committee member may not receive compensation for
8 serving on the committee but is entitled to reimbursement of travel
9 expenses incurred by the member while conducting the business of
10 the committee as provided by the General Appropriations Act.

11 SECTION 3. STATE BUDGETING PLAN. (a) The committee shall
12 develop a comprehensive state budgeting plan consisting of
13 recommended state budgeting guidelines and processes the
14 implementation of which are anticipated to foster this state's
15 current and long-term economic health. At a minimum, the plan must
16 provide guidelines and processes designed to:

17 (1) eliminate diversions of revenue realized from the
18 taxes imposed by Chapter 162, Tax Code, from uses other than the
19 construction and maintenance of roads and other transportation
20 systems;

21 (2) eliminate diversions of other state revenue from
22 the purposes for which the revenue is dedicated by law to general
23 governmental purposes through the operation of Section 403.095,
24 Government Code, or other mechanisms;

25 (3) address and eliminate, to the extent possible, the
26 structural state budget deficit created by the fiscal decisions
27 made in 2006 during the special session of the 79th Legislature;

1 (4) employ budget practices and initiatives and
2 investment strategies the implementation of which would leverage
3 all available funds and increase resources coming to this state
4 from outside of this state;

5 (5) facilitate making investments that are vital to
6 this state's immediate and future economic health and provide
7 options for paying for those investments without unnecessarily or
8 excessively burdening taxpayers and residents of this state; and

9 (6) modify and update budgeting practices to ensure
10 that legislation and other initiatives offering significant
11 potential for economic development and growth in this state's tax
12 base are not hindered by legislative rules and practices regarding
13 the types of legislation that may be considered and enacted by the
14 legislature.

15 (b) The committee shall hold public hearings at locations
16 throughout this state to hear testimony regarding the issues to be
17 addressed in the state budgeting plan.

18 SECTION 4. SUBMISSION OF STATE BUDGETING PLAN. (a) The
19 committee shall submit the state budgeting plan developed under
20 Section 3 of this Act to the Senate Finance Committee, the House
21 Appropriations Committee, and the Legislative Budget Board not
22 later than June 1, 2012.

23 (b) The Senate Finance Committee and the House
24 Appropriations Committee shall consider the state budgeting
25 guidelines and processes recommended in the state budgeting plan in
26 developing proposed state budgets for the state fiscal biennium
27 beginning September 1, 2013, and future state fiscal bienniums.

1 SECTION 5. ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The committee is
2 abolished September 1, 2013.

3 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
4 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
5 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
6 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
7 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2011.