

By: Hinojosa, Eltife, Nelson

S.B. No. 16

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to excepting certain appropriations from computations  
3 regarding the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of  
4 appropriations.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 316.001, Government Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 316.001. LIMIT. The rate of growth of appropriations  
9 in a biennium from state tax revenues, other than state tax revenues  
10 ~~[not]~~ dedicated by the constitution and state tax revenues  
11 appropriated for the purpose of paying the principal of or interest  
12 on state debt, may not exceed the estimated rate of growth of the  
13 state's economy.

14 SECTION 2. Sections 316.002(a) and (e), Government Code,  
15 are amended to read as follows:

16 (a) Before the Legislative Budget Board submits the budget  
17 as prescribed by Section 322.008(c), the board shall establish:

18 (1) the estimated rate of growth of the state's economy  
19 from the current biennium to the next biennium;

20 (2) the level of appropriations for the current  
21 biennium from state tax revenues, other than state tax revenues  
22 ~~[not]~~ dedicated by the constitution and state tax revenues  
23 appropriated for the purpose of paying the principal of or interest  
24 on state debt; and

1           (3) the amount of state tax revenues, other than state  
2 tax revenues [~~not~~] dedicated by the constitution and state tax  
3 revenues appropriated for the purpose of paying the principal of or  
4 interest on state debt, that could be appropriated for the next  
5 biennium within the limit established by the estimated rate of  
6 growth of the state's economy.

7           (e) In the absence of an action by the Legislative Budget  
8 Board to adopt a spending limit as provided in Subsections (a) and  
9 (b), the estimated rate of growth in the state's economy from the  
10 current biennium to the next biennium shall be treated as if it were  
11 zero, and the amount of state tax revenues, other than state tax  
12 revenues [~~not~~] dedicated by the constitution and state tax revenues  
13 appropriated for the purpose of paying the principal of or interest  
14 on state debt, that could be appropriated within the limit  
15 established by the estimated rate of growth in the state's economy  
16 shall be the same as the level of appropriations for the current  
17 biennium.

18           SECTION 3. Section 316.006, Government Code, is amended to  
19 read as follows:

20           Sec. 316.006. LIMIT ON BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS. Unless  
21 authorized by majority vote of the members of the board from each  
22 house, the Legislative Budget Board budget recommendations  
23 relating to the proposed appropriations of state tax revenues,  
24 other than state tax revenues [~~not~~] dedicated by the constitution  
25 and state tax revenues appropriated for the purpose of paying the  
26 principal of or interest on state debt, may not exceed the limit  
27 adopted by the committee under Section 316.005.

1 SECTION 4. Section 316.007(a), Government Code, is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3 (a) The Legislative Budget Board shall include in its budget  
4 recommendations the proposed limit of appropriations from state tax  
5 revenues, other than state tax revenues [~~not~~] dedicated by the  
6 constitution and state tax revenues appropriated for the purpose of  
7 paying the principal of or interest on state debt.

8 SECTION 5. Section 316.008(a), Government Code, is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10 (a) Unless the legislature adopts a resolution under  
11 Section 22(b), Article VIII, [~~Section 22(b), of the]~~ Texas  
12 Constitution, raising the proposed limit on appropriations, the  
13 proposed limit is binding on the legislature with respect to all  
14 appropriations for the next biennium made from state tax revenues,  
15 other than state tax revenues [~~not~~] dedicated by the constitution  
16 and state tax revenues appropriated for the purpose of paying the  
17 principal of or interest on state debt.

18 SECTION 6. (a) The changes in law made by this Act apply  
19 only in relation to appropriations made for the state fiscal  
20 biennium beginning September 1, 2017, and subsequent state fiscal  
21 bienniums.

22 (b) Appropriations for the state fiscal biennium that  
23 begins September 1, 2015, are governed by Subchapter A, Chapter  
24 316, Government Code, as that subchapter provided immediately  
25 before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is  
26 continued in effect for that purpose.

27 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect on the effective date of

1 the constitutional amendment proposed by the 84th Legislature,  
2 Regular Session, 2015, excepting certain appropriations for  
3 reducing state debt from the constitutional limitation on the rate  
4 of growth of appropriations. If that amendment is not approved by  
5 the voters, this Act has no effect.