

By: Hancock, et al.

S.B. No. 1336

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a limit on the rate of growth of certain appropriations.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 316.001, 316.002, and 316.006, Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 316.001. LIMIT. (a) For purposes of this subchapter, "consolidated general revenue appropriations" means appropriations from:

(1) the general revenue fund in the state treasury;

(2) a dedicated account in the general revenue fund in the state treasury; or

(3) a general revenue-related fund in the state treasury as identified in the biennial statement required of the comptroller under Section 49a, Article III, Texas Constitution.

(b) The rate of growth of appropriations in a state fiscal biennium from state tax revenues not dedicated by the constitution may not exceed the estimated rate of growth of the state's economy.

(c) The rate of growth of consolidated general revenue appropriations in a state fiscal biennium may not exceed the estimated average biennial rate of growth of this state's population during the state fiscal biennium preceding the biennium for which appropriations are made and during the state fiscal biennium for which appropriations are made, adjusted by the estimated average biennial rate of monetary inflation in this state

1 during the same period, as determined under Section 316.002.

2 (d) For purposes of this subchapter, the following  
3 appropriations must be excluded from computations used to determine  
4 whether appropriations exceed the amount authorized by Subsection  
5 (c):

6 (1) an appropriation for a purpose that provides tax  
7 relief; or

8 (2) an appropriation to pay costs associated with  
9 disaster recovery.

10 (e) The Legislative Budget Board shall determine the rates  
11 described by Subsection (c) using the most recent information  
12 available from sources the board considers reliable, including the  
13 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index and  
14 the Texas Demographic Center.

15 Sec. 316.002. DUTIES OF LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD. (a)  
16 Before the Legislative Budget Board transmits [~~submits~~] the budget  
17 for the next state fiscal biennium as prescribed by Section  
18 322.008(c), the board shall establish:

19 (1) the limit on the rate of growth of appropriations  
20 from state tax revenues not dedicated by the constitution for that  
21 state fiscal biennium, as compared to the previous state fiscal  
22 biennium, based on the estimated rate of growth of the state's  
23 economy from the current state fiscal biennium to the next state  
24 fiscal biennium; and

25 (2) the limit on the rate of growth of consolidated  
26 general revenue appropriations for that state fiscal biennium, as  
27 compared to the previous state fiscal biennium, by subtracting one

1 from the product of:

2 (A) the sum of one and the estimated average  
3 biennial rate of growth of this state's population during the state  
4 fiscal biennium preceding the biennium for which appropriations are  
5 made and during the state fiscal biennium for which appropriations  
6 are made; and

7 (B) the sum of one and the estimated average  
8 biennial rate of monetary inflation during the state fiscal  
9 biennium preceding the biennium for which appropriations are made  
10 and during the state fiscal biennium for which appropriations are  
11 made [~~the level of appropriations for the current biennium from~~  
12 ~~state tax revenues not dedicated by the constitution; and~~

13 [~~(3) the amount of state tax revenues not dedicated by~~  
14 ~~the constitution that could be appropriated for the next biennium~~  
15 ~~within the limit established by the estimated rate of growth of the~~  
16 ~~state's economy].~~

17 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the board shall  
18 determine the estimated rate of growth of the state's economy for  
19 purposes of Subsection (a)(1) by dividing the estimated Texas total  
20 personal income for the next state fiscal biennium by the estimated  
21 Texas total personal income for the current state fiscal biennium.  
22 Using standard statistical methods, the board shall make the  
23 estimate by projecting through the biennium the estimated Texas  
24 total personal income reported by the United States Department of  
25 Commerce or its successor in function.

26 (c) If a more comprehensive definition of the rate of growth  
27 of the state's economy is developed and is approved by the committee

1 established by Section 316.005, the board may use that definition  
2 in calculating the limit on the rate of growth of appropriations  
3 from state tax revenues not dedicated by the constitution under  
4 Subsection (a)(1).

5 (d) Except as provided by Subsection (e), the board shall  
6 determine for the next state fiscal biennium a limit on the amount  
7 of:

8 (1) appropriations from state tax revenues not  
9 dedicated by the constitution by multiplying the amount of  
10 appropriations from state tax revenues not dedicated by the  
11 constitution for the current state fiscal biennium by the sum of one  
12 and the limit on the rate of growth of appropriations from state tax  
13 revenues not dedicated by the constitution established by the board  
14 under Subsection (a)(1); and

15 (2) consolidated general revenue appropriations by  
16 multiplying the amount of consolidated general revenue  
17 appropriations for the current state fiscal biennium by the sum of  
18 one and the limit on the rate of growth of consolidated general  
19 revenue appropriations established by the board under Subsection  
20 (a)(2).

21 (e) If the rate determined under Subsection (a)(2) is a  
22 negative number, the amount of consolidated general revenue  
23 appropriations for the next state fiscal biennium may not exceed  
24 the amount of consolidated general revenue appropriations in the  
25 current state fiscal biennium.

26 (f) To ensure compliance with this subchapter and Section  
27 22, Article VIII, [~~Section 22, of the~~] Texas Constitution, the

1 Legislative Budget Board may not transmit in any form to the  
2 governor or the legislature the budget as prescribed by Section  
3 322.008(c) or the general appropriations bill as prescribed by  
4 Section 322.008(d) until the board adopts:

5 (1) the limit on the rate of growth of appropriations  
6 from state tax revenues not dedicated by the constitution under  
7 Section 316.001(b); and

8 (2) the limit on the rate of growth of consolidated  
9 general revenue appropriations under Section 316.001(c) [~~has been~~  
10 adopted as required by this subchapter].

11 (g) [~~(e)~~] In the absence of an action by the Legislative  
12 Budget Board to adopt the limits [~~a spending limit~~] as provided by  
13 this section:

14 (1) for purposes of Section 316.001(b):

15 (A) [~~in Subsections (a) and (b),~~] the estimated  
16 rate of growth of of [~~in~~] the state's economy from the current state  
17 fiscal biennium to the next state fiscal biennium shall be treated  
18 as if it were zero; [~~]~~ and

19 (B) the amount of state tax revenues not  
20 dedicated by the constitution that could be appropriated within the  
21 limit established by the estimated rate of growth of [~~in~~] the  
22 state's economy shall be the same as the amount [~~level~~] of those  
23 appropriations for the current state fiscal biennium; and

24 (2) for purposes of Section 316.001(c):

25 (A) the estimated average biennial rates of  
26 growth of this state's population and of monetary inflation shall  
27 be treated as if they were zero; and

1                   (B) the amount of consolidated general revenue  
2 appropriations that could be appropriated within the limit  
3 established by that subsection shall be the same as the amount of  
4 those appropriations for the current state fiscal biennium.

5           Sec. 316.006. LIMIT ON BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS. Unless  
6 authorized by majority vote of the members of the board from each  
7 house, the Legislative Budget Board budget recommendations:

8                   (1) relating to the proposed appropriations from [of]  
9 state tax revenues not dedicated by the constitution may not exceed  
10 the limit on appropriations from those sources adopted by the  
11 committee under Section [316.005](#); and

12                   (2) relating to the proposed consolidated general  
13 revenue appropriations may not exceed the limit on appropriations  
14 from those sources adopted by the committee under Section [316.005](#).

15           SECTION 2. Section [316.007](#)(a), Government Code, is amended  
16 to read as follows:

17           (a) The Legislative Budget Board shall include in its budget  
18 recommendations:

19                   (1) the proposed limit of appropriations from state  
20 tax revenues not dedicated by the constitution; and

21                   (2) the proposed limit of consolidated general revenue  
22 appropriations.

23           SECTION 3. Section [316.008](#)(a), Government Code, is amended  
24 to read as follows:

25           (a) Unless the legislature adopts a resolution under  
26 Section [22](#), Article VIII, [~~Section [22](#)(b), of the~~] Texas  
27 Constitution, raising the proposed limit on appropriations from

1 state tax revenues not dedicated by the constitution, the proposed  
2 limit is binding on the legislature with respect to all  
3 appropriations for the next state fiscal biennium made from those  
4 ~~[state tax]~~ revenues ~~[not dedicated by the constitution]~~. The  
5 proposed limit on consolidated general revenue appropriations is  
6 binding on the legislature with respect to all appropriations for  
7 the next state fiscal biennium made from those sources unless the  
8 legislature adopts a resolution raising the proposed limit that is  
9 approved by a record vote of three-fifths of the members of each  
10 house of the legislature. The resolution must find that an  
11 emergency exists, identify the nature of the emergency, and specify  
12 the amount authorized. The excess amount authorized under this  
13 subsection may not exceed the amount specified in the resolution.

14 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only in  
15 relation to appropriations made for the state fiscal biennium  
16 beginning September 1, 2023, and subsequent state fiscal bienniums.  
17 Appropriations for the state fiscal biennium beginning September 1,  
18 2021, are governed by Sections 316.001, 316.002, 316.006, 316.007,  
19 and 316.008, Government Code, as those sections existed on  
20 September 1, 2020, and the former law is continued in effect for  
21 that purpose.

22 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.