

4526--A

Cal. No. 1001

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 24, 2009

Introduced by Sens. KRUEGER, MONTGOMERY, OPPENHEIMER, SERRANO, STAVISKY, THOMPSON, VALESKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations -- recommitted to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged and said bill committed to the Committee on Rules -- ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the legislative law, in relation to creation of the non-partisan legislative budget office

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The legislative law is amended by adding a new article 4-B
2 to read as follows:

3 ARTICLE 4-B

4 NON-PARTISAN LEGISLATIVE BUDGET OFFICE

5 SECTION 76. NON-PARTISAN LEGISLATIVE BUDGET OFFICE.

6 77. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE; REPORT.

7 S 76. NON-PARTISAN LEGISLATIVE BUDGET OFFICE. 1. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS
8 ARTICLE:

9 A. "OFFICE" MEANS THE NON-PARTISAN LEGISLATIVE BUDGET OFFICE ESTAB-
10 LISHED IN THIS ARTICLE; AND

11 B. "DIRECTOR" MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF THE NON-PARTISAN LEGISLATIVE BUDG-
12 ET OFFICE.

13 C. "SUPER-MAJORITY VOTE" MEANS A VOTE REQUIRING TWO-THIRDS OF THE
14 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH BRANCH OF THE LEGISLATURE.

15 2. THERE IS HEREBY CREATED A NON-PARTISAN LEGISLATIVE BUDGET OFFICE.
16 THE HEAD OF SUCH OFFICE SHALL BE THE DIRECTOR WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY
17 A JOINT RESOLUTION REQUIRING A SUPER-MAJORITY VOTE OF BOTH OF THE SENATE
18 AND ASSEMBLY FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS. THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

LBD00816-04-0

1 SENATE AND SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SENATE
2 MINORITY LEADER AND ASSEMBLY MINORITY LEADER SHALL REACH A CONSENSUS ON
3 A CANDIDATE FOR THE DIRECTOR POSITION ON WHICH THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY
4 SHALL VOTE. THE DIRECTOR OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET OFFICE SHALL BE
5 APPOINTED WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL AFFILIATION AND SOLELY ON THE
6 BASIS OF FITNESS TO PERFORM THE DUTIES ASSIGNED BY THIS ARTICLE.

7 3. A DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR. ANY INDIVID-
8 UAL APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR TO FILL A VACANCY PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF A
9 TERM SHALL SERVE ONLY FOR THE UNEXPIRED PORTION OF THAT TERM. ANY INDI-
10 VIDUAL SERVING AS DIRECTOR AT THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM MAY CONTINUE TO
11 SERVE UNTIL HIS OR HER SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED. ANY DEPUTY DIRECTOR
12 SHALL SERVE UNTIL THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
13 WHO APPOINTED HIM OR HER, AND UNTIL HIS OR HER SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED,
14 UNLESS SOONER REMOVED BY THE DIRECTOR.

15 4. THE DIRECTOR SHALL HOLD NO OTHER PUBLIC OFFICE WHILE SERVING AS
16 THE DIRECTOR. THE DIRECTOR SHALL RECEIVE SUCH COMPENSATION AS MAY BE
17 FIXED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

18 5. THE DIRECTOR MAY BE REMOVED BY EITHER THE ASSEMBLY OR THE SENATE BY
19 RESOLUTION REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED TO EITHER
20 BRANCH OF THE LEGISLATURE.

21 S 77. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE; REPORT. 1. THE OFFICE SHALL:

22 A. PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND
23 ASSEMBLY WITH RESPECT TO THE STATE BUDGET, APPROPRIATION AND PROGRAMMAT-
24 IC BILLS AND OTHER BILLS PROVIDING BUDGET AUTHORITY OR TAX EXPENDITURES;

25 B. EXAMINE AND REVIEW ALL FINANCIAL AND PROGRAMMATIC INFORMATION OF
26 THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENDERING REVENUE ESTIMATES USED IN DETER-
27 MINING WHETHER ANY PROPOSED STATE BUDGET IS BALANCED;

28 C. BE CHARGED WITH THE DUTY OF RENDERING ANTICIPATED REVENUE FORECAST
29 REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR FOR THE PURPOSES OF FACILI-
30 TATING PASSAGE OF THE STATE BUDGET IN A TIMELY MANNER; AND

31 D. PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING THE FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED
32 LEGISLATION AT THE REQUEST OF A MEMBER OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY.

33 E. THE DIRECTOR SHALL DEVELOP, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHAIRS AND
34 RANKING MEMBERS OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND THE
35 ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, A PRIORITY SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING
36 REQUESTS FROM LEGISLATORS FOR FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENTS FOR THEIR LEGIS-
37 LATION.

38 F. THE DIRECTOR SHALL PROVIDE ALL MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY
39 WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING REQUESTS FROM
40 LEGISLATORS FOR FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENTS FOR THEIR LEGISLATION.

41 2. AT THE REQUEST OF ANY COMMITTEE CHAIR OR RANKING MEMBER OF THE
42 SENATE OR ASSEMBLY, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET
43 OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE TO SUCH COMMITTEE ANY INFORMATION WHICH WILL ASSIST
44 IN THE DISCHARGE OF MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF SUCH COMMITTEE.

45 3. THE DIRECTOR MAY APPOINT BUDGET ANALYSTS, ASSISTANTS AND SUCH OTHER
46 EMPLOYEES AS HE OR SHE MAY DEEM NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE, PRESCRIBE SUCH
47 EMPLOYEE'S DUTIES AND FIX SUCH EMPLOYEE'S COMPENSATION WITHIN THE
48 AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED AND MADE AVAILABLE THEREFOR.

49 4. A. THE OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF
50 THE SENATE, SENATE MINORITY LEADER, THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
51 ASSEMBLY MINORITY LEADER, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE:

52 1. WRITTEN ESTIMATES OF ANTICIPATED STATE REVENUES FOR BUDGETARY
53 PURPOSES;

54 2. PROJECTED ECONOMIC FACTORS AND FORECASTS;

55 3. SUMMARIZATION OF THE BUDGET PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNOR PURSUANT TO
56 ARTICLE SEVEN OF THE CONSTITUTION; AND

1 4. REVENUE SOURCES THAT COULD BE USED AS ALTERNATIVES TO REVENUE
2 SOURCES OUTLINED IN THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET.

3 B. SUCH REPORT SHALL BE SUBMITTED ON THE FIRST OF MARCH EACH YEAR FOR
4 THE NEXT SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR. AFTER SUBMISSION TO THE TEMPORARY PRES-
5 IDENT OF THE SENATE, SENATE MINORITY LEADER, THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY
6 AND ASSEMBLY MINORITY LEADER, SUCH REPORT SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE
7 PUBLIC, UPON REQUEST.

8 5. A. THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET OFFICE SHALL BE FUNDED FROM LEGISLATIVE
9 APPROPRIATIONS PROVIDED ANNUALLY, WITH EQUAL ALLOCATIONS PROVIDED BY THE
10 SENATE AND THE ASSEMBLY AS EACH HOUSE DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

11 B. THE DIRECTOR MAY PROCURE, WITHIN THE AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED AND MADE
12 AVAILABLE THEREFOR, UP-TO-DATE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT, OBTAIN THE SERVICES
13 OF EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS IN COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY.

14 S 2. Section 30 of the legislative law, as amended by chapter 766 of
15 the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

16 S 30. Duties of finance and ways and means committees and secretaries
17 AND OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET OFFICE AND ITS DIRECTOR. The committees
18 and their secretaries AND OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET OFFICE AND ITS
19 DIRECTOR shall have access at all reasonable times to offices of state
20 departments, commissions, boards, bureaus and offices, to institutions
21 and to all state authorities and public works of the state and they may,
22 for the purpose of obtaining information as to the method of operation,
23 general condition, management and needs thereof, examine the books,
24 papers and public records therein. Notwithstanding any other provision
25 of law such state departments, commissions, boards, bureaus, offices,
26 state authorities and institutions shall through their proper officers
27 or deputies furnish to such committees AND THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET OFFICE
28 such data, information or statements as may be necessary for the proper
29 exercise of their powers and duties and for the purpose of carrying into
30 effect the provisions of this article. The finance and ways and means
31 committee in exercising the powers and performing the duties prescribed
32 by this article may act jointly, or separately, as they deem advisable.

33 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.