

STATE OF NEW YORK

5550

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. BARCLAY, FITZPATRICK, MONTESANO, BLANKENBUSH, PALMESANO, RA, NORRIS, BRABENEC, SMITH, MIKULIN, SALKA, SMULLEN, B. MILLER, BYRNE, MANKTELOW, ASHBY, WALSH, SIMPSON, LEMONDES, JENSEN, LAWLER, J. M. GIGLIO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BROWN, DiPIETRO, FRIEND, GALLAHAN, GOODELL, HAWLEY, M. MILLER, THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing a spending cap and increasing the maximum capacity of the rainy day fund

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The state finance law is amended by adding a new article 17 to read as follows:

ARTICLE XVII

SPENDING GROWTH CAP ACT

Section 250. Definitions.

251. Establishment of annual spending growth cap.

252. Provisions regarding declaration of emergency.

§ 250. Definitions. As used in this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless otherwise specified:

1. "Annual spending growth cap" shall mean a percentage determined by adding the inflation rates from each of the three calendar years immediately prior to the commencement of a given fiscal year and then dividing that sum by three.

2. "State operating funds spending" shall mean annual disbursements of all governmental fund types included in the cash-basis financial plan of the state, excluding disbursements from federal funds and capital project funds.

3. "Inflation rate" shall mean the percentage change in the twelve-month average of the consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the United States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics or any successor agency for a given calendar year compared to the prior calendar year.

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

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1 4. "Executive budget" shall mean the budget submitted annually by the
2 governor pursuant to section one of article VII of the state constitu-
3 tion.

4 5. "State budget as enacted" shall mean the budget acted upon by the
5 legislature in a given fiscal year, as subject to section four of arti-
6 cle VII of the state constitution and section seven of article IV of the
7 state constitution.

8 6. "Emergency" shall mean an extraordinary, unforeseen, or unexpected
9 occurrence, or combination of circumstances, including but not limited
10 to a natural disaster, invasion, terrorist attack, or economic calamity.

11 § 251. Establishment of annual spending growth cap. 1. There is here-
12 by established an annual spending growth cap.

13 2. The governor shall not submit, and the legislature shall not act
14 upon, a budget that contains a percentage increase over the prior fiscal
15 year in state operating funds spending which exceeds the annual spending
16 growth cap.

17 3. The governor shall certify in writing that state operating funds
18 spending in the executive budget does not exceed the annual spending
19 growth cap. If final inflation rate data for the prior calendar year is
20 not yet available at the time the governor submits his or her executive
21 budget, he or she shall furnish a reasonable estimate of such prior
22 calendar year inflation rate.

23 4. The comptroller shall provide, within five days of action by the
24 legislature upon the budget, a determination as to whether the state
25 operating funds spending as set forth in the state budget as enacted
26 exceeds the annual spending growth cap.

27 5. If the comptroller finds that state operating funds spending as set
28 forth in the state budget as enacted exceeds the annual spending growth
29 cap, the governor shall take corrective action to ensure that funding is
30 limited to the amount of the annual spending cap.

31 § 252. Provisions regarding declaration of emergency. 1. Upon a find-
32 ing of an emergency by the governor, he or she may declare an emergency
33 by an executive order which shall set forth the reasons for such decla-
34 ration.

35 2. Based upon such declaration, the governor may submit, and the
36 legislature may authorize, by a two-thirds super majority, a budget
37 containing a percentage increase over the prior fiscal year in state
38 operating funds spending that exceeds the annual spending growth cap.

39 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 92-cc of the state finance law, as
40 amended by section 12-a of part I of chapter 60 of the laws of 2015, is
41 amended to read as follows:

42 2. Such fund shall have a maximum balance not to exceed [~~five~~ **ten** per
43 centum of the aggregate amount projected to be disbursed from the gener-
44 al fund during the fiscal year immediately following the then-current
45 fiscal year. At the request of the director of the budget, the state
46 comptroller shall transfer monies to the rainy day reserve fund up to
47 and including an amount equivalent to seventy-five one-hundredths of one
48 per centum of the aggregate amount projected to be disbursed from the
49 general fund during the then-current fiscal year, unless such transfer
50 would increase the rainy day reserve fund to an amount in excess of
51 [~~five~~ **ten** per centum of the aggregate amount projected to be disbursed
52 from the general fund during the fiscal year immediately following the
53 then-current fiscal year, in which event such transfer shall be limited
54 to such amount as will increase the rainy day reserve fund to such
55 [~~five~~ **ten** per centum limitation.

56 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.