

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 346 (Senator Roesser)

Budget and Taxation

Spending Affordability Committee - Voting Requirement

This bill provides that a recommendation of the Spending Affordability Committee to increase expenditures in excess of the growth rate in the State's economy must be made by a majority vote of the full authorized voting membership of the committee. Currently, this recommendation can be made with a simple majority vote of present members.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Altering the voting requirements for the Spending Affordability Committee would not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Each year the Spending Affordability Committee recommends to the Governor and General Assembly a level of spending for the State operating budget that is reflective of the current and prospective condition of the State's economy. The Spending Affordability Committee consists of 18 voting members and 4 non-voting members. Currently, a committee recommendation needs only a majority vote of present members. Pursuant to this legislation, at least 10 voting members must approve a recommendation to increase expenditures in excess of the growth in the State's economy.

For fiscal 2000, the Spending Affordability Committee recommended a 5.9% growth in State spending, exceeding the projected 4.8% growth in personal income, a common measure

of growth in the State's economy. This recommendation was made with a 9 to 3 vote, 1 vote short of a full majority of voting members.

Information Source: Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 1999

ncs/jr

Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch, Jr.

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510