

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 649

(Senator Roesser, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

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**Spending Affordability Committee - Voting Requirement**

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This bill provides that a recommendation of the Spending Affordability Committee to increase expenditures in excess of the annual increase in personal income that the committee uses to measure the growth rate in the State's economy must be made by a majority vote of the full authorized voting membership of the committee.

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**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.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A recommendation by the Spending Affordability Committee to increase State expenditures in excess of the growth rate in the State's economy can be made with a simple majority vote of present members.

**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 nonvoting members. Currently, a committee recommendation needs only a majority vote of present members.

Pursuant to this legislation, at least ten voting members must approve a recommendation to increase expenditures in excess of the growth in the State's economy.

For fiscal 2002, the Spending Affordability Committee recommended a 6.95% growth in State spending, exceeding the projected 6% growth in personal income (6.2% in calendar 2001 and 5.7% in calendar 2002), a common measure of growth in the State's economy.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced at the 1999 session as SB 346 and received an unfavorable report by the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source:** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – March 9, 2001  
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