
By: **Senators Lawlah, Britt, Kelley, and Ruben**
Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2006
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Budget - Spending Affordability Committee - Recommendations for**
3 **Budget Reductions**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Spending Affordability Committee to make
5 recommendations for budget reductions to certain programs if the Committee
6 recommends a spending level below the estimated baseline expenditure level;
7 requiring the Department of Legislative Services to provide the Committee with
8 an estimated baseline expenditure level by a certain date; defining a certain
9 term; and generally relating to the Spending Affordability Committee and
10 recommendations for budget reductions.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article - State Government
13 Section 2-1001, 2-1005, and 2-1007
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - State Government**

19 2-1001.

20 (A) In this subtitle[,] THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
21 INDICATED.

22 (B) "Committee" means the Spending Affordability Committee.

23 (C) "ESTIMATED BASELINE EXPENDITURE LEVEL" MEANS THE EXPENDITURE
24 LEVEL FOR A FISCAL YEAR, AS ESTIMATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE
25 SERVICES, NECESSARY TO:

26 (1) MAINTAIN THE SAME FUNDING LEVELS FOR ALL PROGRAMS THAT
27 WERE FUNDED IN THE BUDGET FOR THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR ADJUSTED FOR
28 EMPLOYEE SALARY AND BENEFIT GROWTH, PROGRAM ANNUALIZATIONS,

1 INFLATION, CASELOAD CHANGES, AND OTHER NONDISCRETIONARY CHANGES IN
2 WORKLOAD;

3 (2) PROVIDE ALL FUNDING MANDATED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW;

4 (3) FULLY FUND THE OPERATION OF FACILITIES THAT ARE SCHEDULED
5 TO OPEN IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR OR THAT WERE NOT FULLY OPERATIONAL IN
6 THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR; AND

7 (4) FULLY FUND ALL PROGRAMS IN WHICH A FUNDING SHORTFALL HAS
8 BEEN IDENTIFIED, INCLUDING ELIMINATING ANY SHORTFALLS FROM PRIOR FISCAL
9 YEARS.

10 2-1005.

11 (a) On or before December 1 of each year, the Committee shall submit, subject
12 to § 2-1246 of this title, to the Legislative Policy Committee and the Governor a
13 report with recommendations on fiscal goals for the State budget to be considered at
14 the next regular session of the General Assembly, including:

15 (1) a recommended level of State spending;

16 (2) a recommended level of new debt authorization;

17 (3) a recommended level of State personnel;

18 (4) a recommended use of any anticipated surplus; and

19 (5) other findings or recommendations that the Committee considers
20 appropriate.

21 (b) If the report recommends expenditures in excess of the annual increase in
22 personal income, gross State product, or other data that the Committee used to
23 measure the growth of the State's economy, the Committee shall provide the Senate
24 and the House with an analysis as to the extent the recommendation exceeds those
25 economic indicators.

26 (C) IF THE REPORT RECOMMENDS A LEVEL OF STATE SPENDING BELOW THE
27 ESTIMATED BASELINE EXPENDITURE LEVEL, THE COMMITTEE SHALL INCLUDE, IN
28 THE REPORT PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION,
29 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC BUDGET REDUCTIONS TO PROGRAMS INCLUDED
30 IN THE ESTIMATED BASELINE EXPENDITURE LEVEL TO MEET THE RECOMMENDED
31 LEVEL OF STATE SPENDING.

32 2-1007.

33 (a) (1) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff services
34 for the Committee.

1 (2) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT OF
2 LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE THE COMMITTEE WITH AN ESTIMATED
3 BASELINE EXPENDITURE LEVEL FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

4 (b) Units in the Executive Branch of the State government shall cooperate
5 with the Committee and provide information to the Committee and its staff as
6 requested.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 July 1, 2006.