

SENATE BILL 303

B1, P5

7lr0175
CF 7lr0176

By: **The President (By Request – Administration)**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2017

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commonsense Spending Act of 2017**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that, beginning in a certain fiscal year, any appropriation
4 that is mandated by law is required to have its mandated level of spending increased
5 by the lesser of the amount of the existing formula calculation or a certain
6 percentage; providing for certain exceptions; providing that the General Assembly
7 may not enact certain legislation that creates a certain mandated level of funding
8 except under certain circumstances; and generally relating to mandated funding for
9 certain programs or items in the State budget.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
11 That, notwithstanding any provision of law that requires the Governor to include a certain
12 level of funding in the annual budget bill for a specific program or item, and
13 notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as provided in subsection (b) of this
14 section, beginning in fiscal year 2019:

15 (a) Any appropriation that is mandated by law shall have its mandated level of
16 spending increased by the lesser of:

17 (1) the amount of the existing formula calculation; or

18 (2) an amount equal to 1% less than the reported amount of General Fund
19 revenue growth in the report submitted by the Board of Revenue Estimates to the Governor
20 under § 6–106(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article for December.

21 (b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to:

22 (1) funding required for State aid to public elementary and secondary
23 education as provided under Title 5, Subtitle 2 or § 4–121, § 4–122, § 6–306, § 8–313, §
24 8–3A–09, or § 8–415 of the Education Article;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) any appropriation required to be made to the Revenue Stabilization
2 Account under § 7–311 of the State Finance and Procurement Article; or

3 (3) any appropriation required for the payment of principal or interest on
4 State debt.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly may
6 not enact legislation that creates a new required level of funding in the annual budget bill
7 for a future fiscal year for a specific program or item or increases a required level of funding
8 in the annual budget bill for a future fiscal year for a specific program or item unless it also
9 enacts legislation at that same session that reduces or repeals an equivalent amount of
10 required funding for the same fiscal year.

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
12 1, 2017.