

# HOUSE BILL 348

B1, P5  
SB 303/17 – B&T

8lr0153  
CF SB 293

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By: **The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Adams, Afzali, Anderton, Arentz, Aumann, Beitzel, Buckel, Carozza, Cassilly, Ciliberti, Clark, Cluster, Corderman, Fisher, Folden, Ghrist, Glass, Grammer, Hornberger, S. Howard, Jacobs, Kipke, Kittleman, Krebs, Long, Malone, Mautz, McComas, McConkey, McDonough, McKay, McMillan, Metzgar, Miele, Morgan, Parrott, Reilly, Rey, Rose, Saab, Shoemaker, Vogt, West, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2018

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commonsense Spending Act of 2018**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that, beginning in a certain fiscal year, any appropriation  
4 that increases by operation of law is required to have its mandated level of spending  
5 increased 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:

12 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law that requires the Governor to include a  
13 certain level of funding in the annual budget bill for a specific program or item, and  
14 notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
15 section, beginning in fiscal year 2020 any appropriation that would increase by operation  
16 of law shall have its mandated level of 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.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

7 (3) any appropriation required for the payment of principal or interest on  
8 State debt; or

9 (4) any appropriation required for the State's employer contribution to the  
10 State Retirement and Pension System required under § 21-308 of the State Personnel and  
11 Pensions Article.

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

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
19 1, 2018.