

HB0350/603127/1

BY: Senator Jennings

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 350
(Third Reading File Bill – Committee Reprint)

On page 341, under:

Heading: Section 41.

After line 10, insert:

“SECTION 42. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Budget and Management shall implement a statewide hiring freeze, effective July 1, 2025, for all employees in the State Personnel Management System. The hiring freeze shall exclude direct custody positions and direct care positions responsible for individuals in the custody or care of the State. The Secretary of Budget and Management shall establish guidelines for requesting and approving limited hiring freeze exceptions for positions for which hiring would result in cost reductions.

Further provided that funding provided for the 1% fiscal 2026 cost of living adjustment and fiscal 2026 employee increments may not be expended for that purpose.

Further provided that 25.0 new positions in the Office of the Public Defender are abolished.

Further provided that funding provided for salaries and fringe benefits are hereby reduced by \$275,133,596 in general funds, \$49,111,511 in special funds, and \$40,473,282 in federal funds. Funding shall be reduced from within programs in the Executive Branch agencies in Section 1 of this Act in accordance with a schedule determined by the Department of Budget and Management. The Department of Budget and Management is authorized to distribute this reduction among Executive Branch

agencies in a schedule that considers the cost reductions achieved in each agency due to the hiring freeze.”;

and in lines 11 and 17, strike “42.” and “43.”, respectively, and substitute “43.” and “44.”, respectively.