

2020 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 356

BY SENATORS WHITE, CLOUD AND CORTEZ AND REPRESENTATIVES
SCHEXNAYDER AND ZERINGUE

FUNDS/FUNDING. Provides relative to sessions of the Revenue Estimating Conference.
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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 39:24(A) and (C), and 26(A) and (B), and to enact R.S. 39:24(G) and 34(A)(3), relative to the Revenue Estimating Conference; to provide relative to sessions of the Revenue Estimating Conference; to provide relative to the dates the conference shall meet and the purposes for each meeting; to provide relative to the official forecast and the long range forecast; to provide relative to the use of the official forecast in the executive budget; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 39:24(A) and (C), and 26(A) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 39:24(G) and 34(A)(3) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§24. Official forecast

A. The Revenue Estimating Conference shall establish an official forecast for each fiscal year which shall be derived and revised only as provided in this Part. **The conference shall prepare and publish initial and revised estimates of money to be received by the state general fund, dedicated funds, and fees and self-generated revenues for the current, ensuing, and next three fiscal years,**

1 commonly known as the long range forecast, which are available for
 2 appropriation. The official forecast shall include a forecast of all funds as defined
 3 in Article VII, Section 10(J) of the Constitution of Louisiana, and shall include an
 4 estimate of money available for appropriation from each dedicated fund. Each such
 5 official forecast shall contain a designation of all money which is nonrecurring. The
 6 conference shall designate all other money in each official forecast as recurring. In
 7 addition, the conference may designate as nonrecurring any money available for
 8 appropriation from any source that is defined as nonrecurring in R.S. 39:2(27).

9 * * *

10 C. The official forecast shall be published ~~in the Louisiana Register and the~~
 11 ~~official state journal~~ electronically and shall contain a statement of the economic
 12 assumptions and any other factors upon which it is based.

13 * * *

14 G. Once a year-end balance contained in a dedicated fund has been
 15 recognized and included in an official forecast by the conference, it shall be
 16 available for appropriation and shall continue to be available at any time in a
 17 current or ensuing fiscal year.

18 * * *

19 §26. Sessions

20 A. The Revenue Estimating Conference shall meet at least ~~four~~ three times
 21 per year as follows:

22 (1) By ~~October~~ December fifteenth the conference shall revise the official
 23 forecast, as necessary, for the current fiscal year, shall establish an official
 24 forecast for the ensuing fiscal year, and shall establish or revise an official forecast
 25 for the three-year period following the ensuing fiscal year, which shall be utilized
 26 by the budget office in formulating the executive budget recommendations.

27 (2) By ~~January first~~ After the regular session has commenced and prior
 28 to adjournment of the regular session each year, the conference shall revise the
 29 official forecast, as necessary, for the current and ensuing fiscal year years and

1 the three year period following the ensuing fiscal year, which shall be utilized in
2 the preparation of the executive budget by the legislature in its enactment of
3 appropriations for the current and ensuing fiscal year budgets.

4 (3) ~~By the third Monday in March the conference shall revise the official~~
5 ~~forecast which shall be utilized by the legislature in its adoption of a state budget for~~
6 ~~the ensuing fiscal year.~~

7 (4) By August fifteenth and subsequent to the final adjournment of each
8 regular session the conference shall revise the official forecast, **as necessary**, for the
9 fiscal year for which appropriations were made in the past regular session which
10 shall incorporate all revenue impacts resulting from legislation enacted during the
11 past regular session and which shall be utilized in the preparation of the state budget,
12 as required by R.S. 39:56.

13 B. The official forecast for the current **and ensuing** fiscal year **years and the**
14 **forecast for the three year period following the ensuing fiscal year** shall be
15 reviewed, and revised if necessary, each time the Revenue Estimating Conference
16 meets.

17 * * *

18 §34. Executive budget

19 A.(1) * * *

20 **(3) If the Revenue Estimating Conference does not adopt an official**
21 **forecast for the ensuing fiscal year in sufficient time for an official forecast to**
22 **be incorporated into the executive budget, the governor shall use the most**
23 **recently adopted long range forecast for the three year period following the**
24 **ensuing fiscal year in the preparation of the executive budget.**

25 * * *

26 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
27 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
28 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
29 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become

1 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Martha S. Hess.

DIGEST

SB 356 Original 2020 Regular Session White

Present law provides for Revenue Estimating Conference to meet to establish an official forecast for each fiscal year.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the conference shall prepare and publish initial and revised estimates of money to be received by the state general fund, dedicated funds, and fees and self-generated revenues for the current, ensuing, and next three fiscal years, commonly known as the long range forecast, which are available for appropriation.

Present law provides that the official forecast shall be published in the Louisiana Register and the official state journal and shall contain a statement of the economic assumptions and any other factors upon which it is based. Proposed law retains present law requires electronic publication of the official forecast instead of in the Louisiana Register and the official state journal.

Present law provides for Revenue Estimating Conference to meet at least four times each year: by October 15th to establish an official forecast for the ensuing fiscal year; by January first to revise the ensuing year's official forecast for preparation of the executive budget; by the third Monday in March to revise the ensuing year's official forecast; and by August 15th, to recognize session action.

Proposed law changes the required number of meetings from four times a year to three times a year. Proposed law requires one meeting by December 15th for purposes of establishing a forecast, as necessary, for the ensuing fiscal year and the three year period following the ensuing fiscal year, commonly known as the long range forecast, and reviewing the current year official forecast; and one meeting after session begins and prior to adjournment for purposes of revising current and ensuing year, and the long range forecasts. Proposed law maintains present law requirement for meeting by August 15th each year after session to recognize any session action that could have an impact on state revenues.

Proposed law provides that once a year-end balance contained in a dedicated fund has been recognized and included in an official forecast by the conference, it shall be available for appropriation and continue to be available at any time in a current or ensuing fiscal year.

Present law provides that the governor shall prepare an executive budget which shall include recommendations for appropriations from the state general fund and dedicated funds which shall not exceed the official forecast of the Revenue Estimating Conference.

Proposed law retains present law and provides if the Revenue Estimating Conference does not adopt an official forecast for the ensuing fiscal year in sufficient time for an official forecast to be incorporated into the executive budget, the governor shall use the most recently adopted long range forecast for the three year period following the ensuing fiscal year in the preparation of the executive budget.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 39:24(A) and (C), and 26(A) and (B); adds R.S. 39:24(G) and 34(A)(3))