

2018 -- S 2685

LC004456

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE - STATE BUDGET

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Seveney, DiPalma, Conley, and Felag

Date Introduced: March 20, 2018

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 35-3-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 35-3 entitled "State
2 Budget" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **35-3-9. ~~Action on bills by house committee -- Hearings.~~ Action on bills by house and**
4 **senate committees -- Hearings.**

5 (a) The budget plan and bill or bills for proposed appropriations, when sent by the
6 governor to the general assembly, shall be referred as soon as practicable to ~~an~~ the appropriate
7 ~~committee~~ committees of the house of representatives and the senate, and the ~~committee~~ house
8 and senate committees shall forthwith proceed to the consideration of the bill. The ~~committee~~
9 committees shall hear the budget officer upon the bill as a whole or upon any item thereof or any
10 proposed amendment thereto as each may elect, and the ~~committee~~ committees may summon the
11 budget officer to appear before it and to furnish such information relative to the bill or any item
12 therein, or any proposed amendment thereto, as it may require, and the ~~committee~~ committees
13 may in ~~its~~ their discretion hear the proper person representing any department or agency desiring
14 to be heard with respect to any item or amendment in the bill relating to the department or
15 agency; provided, that nothing contained in this section shall be construed to limit the right of the
16 ~~committee~~ committees to hold public hearings upon the bill as a whole or upon any item therein,
17 or to summon any person for examination regarding any item contained therein, or for the
18 purpose of obtaining information necessary for a full and proper consideration of the bill. The
19 ~~committee~~ house and senate committees, after the consideration of the bill, shall report the bill

1 with its recommendation endorsed thereon to the ~~house of representatives~~ respective house and
2 senate chambers for a full vote.

3 (b) If, upon consideration by the house of representatives and the senate, there are
4 differences in the final budget that cannot be agreed upon, then a budget conference committee
5 shall be formed to review only the areas of the budget which differ. The joint conference
6 committee shall consist of three (3) members of the house to be appointed by the house finance
7 committee and three (3) members of the senate to be appointed by the senate finance committee.
8 The committee shall vote to approve a conference report which shall require four (4) votes in the
9 affirmative inclusive of two (2) votes from each chamber to be issued without the possibility of
10 amendments to the full body of the house and senate for a final vote. Once approved by both
11 chambers the budget shall be amended by the conference report and be considered passed in
12 concurrence and shall then be transmitted to the governor for signature or veto.

13 SECTION 2. Sections 35-3-10 and 35-3-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 35-3 entitled
14 "State Budget" are hereby repealed.

15 ~~**35-3-10. Consideration of bill by senate committee.**~~

16 ~~The bill, after passage by the house of representatives in its original form as transmitted~~
17 ~~by the governor, or as amended by the house, shall be transmitted to and received by the senate in~~
18 ~~the same manner as other bills are transmitted and received, and, upon receipt thereof by the~~
19 ~~senate, it shall forthwith be referred to an appropriate committee, which shall proceed to the~~
20 ~~consideration of the bill in the manner as provided in § 35-3-9 for the consideration of the bill by~~
21 ~~the committee of the house of representatives.~~

22 ~~**35-3-11. Consideration of budget by senate.**~~

23 ~~The bill, with the endorsement of the committee of the senate thereon, shall be considered~~
24 ~~by the senate in accordance with the joint rules and orders and rules of the senate, and may be~~
25 ~~amended in such manner as the senate may determine.~~

26 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE - STATE BUDGET

1 This act would amend the process by which the house and senate consider and amend the
2 state budget.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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