

REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE

Existing law sets forth requirements relative to the expenditure of state funds and establishes the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) to prepare and publish initial and revised estimates of money to be received by the state general fund and dedicated funds for the current and next fiscal years which are available for appropriation, the most recent of which is called the official forecast. In each estimate, the REC must designate money as recurring or nonrecurring.

New law adds that the REC shall include a forecast of all funds as defined in Art. VII, §10(J) of the Const. of La., with an estimate of money available for appropriation from each dedicated fund. Further authorizes the REC to designate as nonrecurring, money available for appropriation from any source defined in existing law (R.S. 39:2(27)) as nonrecurring. (R.S. 39:24 (A))

EXECUTIVE BUDGET

Existing law requires the governor to prepare an executive budget to include recommendations for appropriations from the state general fund and dedicated funds which shall not exceed the official forecast of the REC.

New law prohibits the executive budget from including recommendations for appropriations from any fund in excess of the official forecast of money available for appropriation from that fund. (R.S. 39:34(A))

APPROPRIATION BILLS

Existing law requires, after submitting his executive budget, that the governor then cause to be introduced a General Appropriation Bill (GAB) for the ordinary operating expenditures in conformity with the budget estimate.

New law adds the prohibition that the general appropriation bill and other appropriation bills appropriate any funds which are not part of the official REC forecast, except for financing from prior year's fund balances of existing statutorily dedicated funds for appropriations other than the fund's intended statutory purpose. (R.S. 39:51(A))

EXPENDITURE OF STATE FUNDS

Existing law provides that appropriations from the state general fund and dedicated funds shall not exceed the official forecast.

New law specifies that unless otherwise authorized by law to avoid a projected deficit, the amount appropriated out of any fund shall not exceed the official forecast of money available for appropriation from that fund. New law further provides that financing for any appropriation from statutorily dedicated funds shall be limited to the prior fiscal year fund balance and shall not include anticipated fund balances for the ensuing fiscal year unless otherwise provided by law. (R.S. 39:54(A))

Effective July 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 39:24(A), 34(A), 51(A), and 54(A))