

HB 1373 -- County Budgets

Sponsor: Asbury

This bill authorizes a county to amend its budget twice during any fiscal year when there is a verifiable decline in funds of at least 2% that could not have been estimated or anticipated when the budget was adopted. Currently, a county is only authorized to amend its annual budget when it receives additional funds that could not be estimated.

Any decrease in appropriations cannot unduly affect any one officeholder and cannot impact any dedicated fund authorized by law. The county must provide 30 days' notice of a public hearing regarding any amendment to the county budget, including a published summary of the proposed reductions and an explanation of the shortfall. If a county has a website, publication of the notice on the website will satisfy this notice requirement.

Before any reduction affecting an elected officeholder can occur, negotiations must take place with all officeholders who receive funds from the affected category of funds in an attempt to cover the shortfall.

The county commissioners can reduce budgets of departments under their direct supervision and responsibility at any time without these restrictions.

These provisions will expire July 1, 2015.