

HJR 67 -- GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY TO EXPEND STATE FUNDS

SPONSOR: Fitzpatrick

Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment modifies provisions relating to the Governor's authority to expend state funds. Currently, the Governor can make recommendations regarding necessary law changes to provide sufficient revenues to meet expenditures, this proposal removes that authority and limits the Governor's estimate of available revenues to revenues generated by current laws only. Any revenue or moneys collected by the state that is not specifically directed to a particular fund or account must be deposited into the general revenue fund and the Governor cannot divert any of the funds for other purposes. A budget council consisting of the Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Attorney General, a member from the Senate and a member from the House of Representatives is created. The council can veto any expenditure reduction below the appropriated amount made by the Governor without a physical meeting or actual vote by issuing a veto message signed by a majority of the council to the Governor to immediately cease any reduction of expenditures.