

By Mr. Tarr of Gloucester, petition of Bruce E. Tarr and Thomas G. Palumbo for legislation to require legislative adoption of revenue estimates. Ways and Means (joint).

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four.

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AN ACT REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE ADOPTION OF REVENUE ESTIMATES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1988  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 5D  
3 the following: —

4 Section 5E. At the same time as he files his budget, the  
5 governor shall file with the general court a message containing  
6 his estimates, in total and by category, of the amount of state  
7 revenues that will be available for expenditure during the next  
8 fiscal year. In addition, the message shall contain:

- 9 (a) provisions of economic conditions for the next fiscal year;
- 10 (b) realized revenues for the previous fiscal year, by category,
- 11 and
- 12 (c) a statement of any anticipated significant changes in federal
- 13 financial assistance.

14 No appropriation bill shall be presented for debate on the floor  
15 of either branch of the general court unless there is an approved  
16 joint revenue estimate resolution. An "approved joint revenue  
17 estimate resolution" is a statement of the estimated total amount  
18 of revenues available for expenditure during the fiscal year in  
19 question adopted by both branches of the general court and  
20 approved by the governor.

21 Any such revenue estimate may be changed by a subsequent  
22 approved joint revenue estimate resolution reflecting the changed  
23 estimate. Such a subsequent resolution shall not be considered or  
24 voted on by either branch of the general court when an

25 appropriation bill or any matter related to it is pending before  
26 that branch.

27 If any appropriation bill transmitted to the governor would  
28 provide for expenditures in excess of the last approved joint  
29 revenue estimate resolution adopted and approved prior to the  
30 enactment of the appropriation bill, the governor shall make such  
31 budget reductions as are needed to reduce the total appropriations  
32 in the bill to the level of the estimated revenue set in the joint  
33 revenue estimate resolution.