

By Mr. Robinson of Melrose, petition of William G. Robinson and other members of the House for legislation to require legislative adoption of revenue estimates. Ways and Means (House).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Nine.

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 is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 5B the following section: —

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

8 (a) projections of economic conditions for the next fiscal year;

9 (b) realized revenues for the previous fiscal year, by category;
10 and

11 (c) a statement of any anticipated significant changes in federal
12 financial assistance.

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

20 Any such revenue estimate may be changed by a subsequent
21 approved joint revenue estimate resolution reflecting the changed
22 estimate. Such a subsequent resolution shall not be considered or
23 voted on by either branch of the general court when any appropria-
24 tion bill or any matter related to it is pending before that branch.

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