

SENATE No. 2111

By Ms. Melconian, a petition of Linda J. Melconian for legislation relative to the Commonwealth's fiscal and budgetary system. Ways and Means (Senate).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE COMMONWEALTH'S FISCAL AND BUDGETARY SYSTEM.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 9F of Chapter 29 of the General Laws
2 as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:

4 The comptroller shall submit January first of nineteen hundred
5 and ninety and every six months thereafter to the clerk of the
6 house and senate a report concerning expenditures of the
7 commonwealth for the previous six month period. Said report
8 shall list every debt incurred by the Commonwealth which is in
9 excess of two thousand dollars and which is more than one
10 hundred and twenty days outstanding. Said debt report shall
11 include, but not be limited to, identifying the amount of debt;
12 length of time owed; nature of debt incurred; and any other
13 information deemed appropriate by the comptroller.

1 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any special or general law to
2 the contrary, the governor is hereby directed to provide annually
3 to the legislature specific budgetary information regarding the
4 current fiscal year covering the fiscal period from July 1 through
5 December 31. Such information shall include, but not be limited
6 to, all expenditures paid out by the commonwealth during said
7 fiscal period; all revenues collected during said fiscal period; all
8 expenditures projected for the fiscal period as established prior
9 to the beginning of the fiscal year and all revenues projected to

10 be collected during this fiscal period as established prior to the
11 beginning of the fiscal year.

12 The governor shall provide this information and any other he
13 deems appropriate to the legislature at the joint session of the
14 legislature during his excellency's state of the state message.

1 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or
2 special law to the contrary, the secretary of administration and
3 finance is hereby authorized and directed to require all executive
4 offices to create intra agency task forces within their departments
5 and inter departmental task forces between executive offices to
6 determine how said executive offices and departments may
7 provide more cost-effective delivery of government services,
8 programs, and benefits to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

9 Such task forces shall identify areas of duplication and
10 recommend the "sunsetting" of certain programs and regulations,
11 including but not limited to (a) programs, services, benefits
12 superceded by another (better) program, service, or benefit;
13 (b) program, services, and benefits where need can no longer be
14 substantiated; (c) regulations that are burdensome, duplicative,
15 contradictory, or non-essential; (d) unnecessary expenses, i.e.
16 outside consultants, use of state vehicles, expense accounts or
17 allowances, surplus rental properties and equipment. Each agency
18 shall review its regulations and programs with federal regulations
19 and their agency program directions to insure the program is
20 receiving maximum federal financial participation.

21 Each intra agency task force shall submit its report and
22 recommendations to its respective secretariat and each secretariat
23 shall submit a report to the secretary of administration and finance
24 with specific recommendations eliminating the identified areas of
25 duplication and establishing cost-saving measures and specific
26 plans to maximize federal financial participation.

27 Each inter agency department task force shall upon reviewing
28 all intra agency task force reports shall submit within ninety days
29 thereof a report to the secretary of administration and finance
30 identifying areas of duplication and any recommendations for cost
31 saving measures. The secretary of administration and finance
32 upon receiving said inter agency reports shall review said reports
33 and submit these along with any comments deemed appropriate

34 to the house and senate clerk and the house and senate ways and
35 means committee.

1 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any special or general law to
2 the contrary, the house and senate committees on ways and means
3 shall sit in joint session and hold a public hearing on all reports
4 submitted to the clerk of the house and senate as described in
5 sections one and three of this act and budget information required
6 by section two of this act.

