

March 14, 2007

**H 669. REFORM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET PROCESS.** Filed 3/14/07. *TO REFORM THE PREPARATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND TO REGULATE DISCRETIONARY FUNDS AND THE PROCESS OF ENACTMENT OF THE STATE BUDGET.*

Amends GS 143-23(c), (d), and (e) to require the President Pro Tem., Speaker of the House of Representative, or both to report any changes as between objects or line items in the budget of the Senate and the House to all members of the General Assembly within 14 days. Amends GS 143C-6-4(d), (e), and (f), effective July 1, 2007, to require the President Pro Tem, the Speaker, or both to report the approval of overexpenditures to all members of the General Assembly within 14 days. Amends GS 143C-3-1, effective July 1, 2007, to require a copy of the estimates of the financial needs of the legislative branch for the upcoming fiscal year provided to the Director of the Budget to be provided to all members of the General Assembly within 14 days. Enacts new GS 143-23.4, to be recodified as GS 143C-6-12 effective July 1, 2007, directing the Speaker, President Pro Tem., and Legislative Services Officer to report all actions taken in administering their respective budgets to all members of the General Assembly on a monthly basis. Enacts new 143-32.1, effective July 1, 2007, requiring all appropriations in the current appropriations act to specify exact descriptions of an appropriation on a separate line. Provides that when there is an expenditure of discretionary funds, the discretion resides only with the Governor or the Governor's designee and that it is unlawful for a member of the General Assembly to attempt to influence the exercise of that discretion or to influence the way funds are expended. Enacts new GS 143C-5-6, effective July 1, 2007, to provide that the current operations appropriations bill or a bill making revisions to that bill for the second fiscal year of a biennium may not be placed on the favorable calendar for second reading earlier than the third legislative day after distribution to the offices of all members of that house and that the continuance report on such bills may not be placed on the favorable calendar until the third day after the continuance report is distributed to the offices of all members. Enacts new GS 143C-5-7, effective July 1, 2007, prohibiting changes in existing law from being included in the current operations appropriations bill; the capital improvement appropriations bill; or any other bill revising appropriations for the second fiscal year of a biennium, unless the change: (1) alters expenditures or salaries; (2) changes the scope or character of a program which must be changed because of a change in funds appropriated to the program or because of changes in federal law; or (3) modifies any function of state government that necessitates a transfer of funds from one department to another.

**Intro. by Blust.**

GS 143, 143C