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**JOINT RESOLUTION ON STATE BUDGET  
ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY**

2013 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This rules resolution modifies procedures relating to budgetary recommendations by legislators and appropriations subcommittees and establishes the Budget Accessibility and Transparency Website.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires each member of an appropriations subcommittee to submit the member's individual recommendations regarding the proposed items of expenditure under consideration by the subcommittee;
- ▶ requires each appropriations subcommittee report to include the recommendation of the subcommittee, the recommendation of each member of the subcommittee, and the average of the recommendations made by members of the subcommittee;
- ▶ requires the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst to create and maintain the Budget Accessibility and Transparency Website;
- ▶ describes the contents and functionality requirements for the website; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Special Clauses:**

None



28 **Legislative Rules Affected:**

29 AMENDS:

30 **JR3-2-402**

31 ENACTS:

32 **JR3-2-701**



34 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

35 Section 1. **JR3-2-402** is amended to read:

36 **JR3-2-402. Executive Appropriations -- Duties -- Base budgets.**

37 (1) As used in this rule:

38 (a) "Base budget" means amounts appropriated by the Legislature for each item of  
39 appropriation for the current fiscal year that:

40 (i) are not designated as one-time in an appropriation, regardless of whether [~~or not~~]  
41 the [~~appropriations~~] appropriation is covered by ongoing or one-time revenue sources; and

42 (ii) were not vetoed by the governor, unless the Legislature overrode the veto.

43 (b) "Base budget" includes:

44 (i) any changes to those amounts approved by the Executive Appropriations  
45 Committee; and

46 (ii) amounts appropriated for debt service.

47 (2) (a) The Executive Appropriations Committee shall meet no later than the third  
48 Wednesday in December to:

49 (i) direct staff as to what revenue estimate to use in preparing budget  
50 recommendations;

51 (ii) decide whether [~~or not~~] to set aside special allocations for the end of the session;

52 (iii) approve the appropriate amount for each subcommittee to use in preparing its  
53 budget;

54 (iv) set a budget figure; and

55 (v) adopt a base budget in accordance with Subsection (2)(b) and direct the Legislative  
56 Fiscal Analyst to prepare one or more appropriations acts appropriating one or more base  
57 budgets for the next fiscal year.

58 (b) In a base budget adopted under Subsection (2)(a), appropriations from the General

59 Fund, the Education Fund, and the Uniform School Fund shall be set as follows:

60 (i) if the next fiscal year ongoing revenue estimates set under Subsection (2)(a)(i) are  
61 equal to or greater than the current fiscal year ongoing appropriations, the new fiscal year base  
62 budget is not changed;

63 (ii) if the next fiscal year ongoing revenue estimates set under Subsection (2)(a)(i) are  
64 less than the current fiscal year ongoing appropriations, the new fiscal year base budget is  
65 reduced by the same percentage that projected next fiscal year ongoing revenue estimates are  
66 lower than the total of current fiscal year ongoing appropriations; and

67 (iii) in making a reduction under Subsection (2)(b)(ii), appropriated debt service shall  
68 not be reduced, and other ongoing appropriations shall be reduced, in an amount sufficient to  
69 make the total ongoing appropriations, including the unadjusted debt service, equal to the  
70 percentage calculated under Subsection (2)(b)(ii).

71 (c) The chairs of each [~~appropriation~~] appropriations subcommittee are invited to  
72 attend this meeting.

73 (3) Appropriations subcommittees may not meet while the Senate or House is in  
74 session without special leave from the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate.

75 (4) All proposed items of expenditure to be included in the appropriations bills shall be  
76 submitted to one of the subcommittees named in JR3-2-302 for consideration and  
77 recommendation.

78 (5) Each member of a subcommittee shall:

79 (a) consider the proposed items of expenditure submitted to the subcommittee; and

80 (b) before the subcommittee makes recommendations to the Executive Appropriations  
81 Committee, submit to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst the member's individual  
82 recommendations regarding the proposed items of expenditure.

83 (6) Each subcommittee report shall include, for each item of expenditure submitted to  
84 the subcommittee:

85 (a) the recommendation of the subcommittee;

86 (b) the recommendation of each member of the subcommittee; and

87 (c) the average of the recommendations made by each member of the subcommittee.

88 [~~(5)~~] (7) (a) After receiving and reviewing subcommittee reports, the Executive

89 Appropriations Committee may refer the report back to an appropriations subcommittee with

90 any guidelines the Executive Appropriations Committee considers necessary to assist the  
91 subcommittee in producing a balanced budget.

92 (b) The subcommittee shall meet to review the new guidelines and report the  
93 adjustments to the chairs of the Executive Appropriations Committee as soon as possible.

94 ~~[(6)]~~ (8) (a) After receiving the reports, the Executive Appropriations Committee  
95 chairs will ~~[report]~~ present them to the Executive Appropriations Committee.

96 (b) That committee shall:

97 (i) make any further adjustments necessary to balance the budget; and

98 (ii) complete all decisions necessary to draft the final appropriations bill no later than  
99 the 38th day of the annual general session.

100 Section 2. **JR3-2-701** is enacted to read:

101 **Part 7. Budget Accessibility and Transparency Website**

102 **JR3-2-701. Budget Accessibility and Transparency Website.**

103 (1) As used in this rule, "website" means the Budget Accessibility and Transparency  
104 Website described in this rule.

105 (2) The Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall:

106 (a) create and maintain a Budget Accessibility and Transparency Website; and

107 (b) make the website available to the public.

108 (3) The website shall:

109 (a) be searchable and organized in a manner that will enable a user to easily track and  
110 compare budgetary recommendations and changes throughout the appropriations process;

111 (b) allow a user to compare budget proposals at multiple levels, including the fund  
112 category level, fund level, account level, subcommittee level, agency level, line item level, and  
113 program level;

114 (c) allow a user to compare the budget for expenditures from the General Fund, the  
115 Education Fund, and the Uniform School Fund, to the revenue in, or revenue estimates for,  
116 those funds at the levels described in Subsection (3)(b);

117 (d) allow a user to compare, at the levels described in Subsection (3)(b):

118 (i) the base budget;

119 (ii) budget recommendations by:

120 (A) subcommittees, as described in JR3-2-402(6)(a);

- 121 (B) each member of a subcommittee, as described in JR3-2-402(6)(b); and  
122 (C) the average of the recommendations made by each member of a subcommittee, as  
123 described in JR3-2-402(6)(c);  
124 (iii) actions by the Executive Appropriations Committee in relation to the budget;  
125 (iv) bills with appropriations; and  
126 (v) actions by the House and Senate in relation to the budget.  
127 (4) Information on the website relating to budgetary recommendations and actions shall  
128 be displayed in chronological order.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 10-1-12 12:41 PM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**