

GENERAL FUND BUDGET RESERVE ACCOUNT

AMENDMENTS

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ken Ivory

Senate Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions relating to the General Fund Budget Reserve Account.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ authorizes the Legislature to appropriate money from the General Fund Budget Reserve Account to finance an existing federally funded program or activity in certain circumstances; and
- ▶ makes technical corrections.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63J-1-312, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 214

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **63J-1-312** is amended to read:

63J-1-312. Establishing a General Fund Budget Reserve Account -- Providing for



28 **deposits and expenditures from the account -- Providing for interest generated by the**
29 **account.**

30 (1) As used in this section:

31 (a) "Education Fund budget deficit" means a situation where appropriations made by
32 the Legislature from the Education Fund for a fiscal year exceed the estimated revenues
33 adopted by the Executive Appropriations Committee of the Legislature for the Education Fund
34 in that fiscal year.

35 (b) "General Fund appropriations" means the sum of the spending authority for a fiscal
36 year that is:

37 (i) granted by the Legislature in all appropriation acts and bills; and

38 (ii) identified as coming from the General Fund.

39 (c) "General Fund budget deficit" means a situation where General Fund appropriations
40 made by the Legislature for a fiscal year exceed the estimated revenues adopted by the
41 Executive Appropriations Committee of the Legislature for the General Fund in that fiscal year.

42 (d) "General Fund revenue surplus" means a situation where actual General Fund
43 revenues collected in a completed fiscal year exceed the estimated revenues for the General
44 Fund for that fiscal year that were adopted by the Executive Appropriations Committee of the
45 Legislature.

46 (e) "Operating deficit" means that, at the end of the fiscal year, the unassigned fund
47 balance in the General Fund is less than zero.

48 (2) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account to be known as the
49 General Fund Budget Reserve Account, which is designated to receive the legislative
50 appropriations and the surplus revenue required to be deposited into the account by this section.

51 (3) (a) (i) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(a)(ii), at the end of any fiscal year in
52 which the Division of Finance, in consultation with the Legislative Fiscal Analyst and in
53 conjunction with the completion of the annual audit by the state auditor, determines that there
54 is a General Fund revenue surplus, the Division of Finance shall transfer 25% of the General
55 Fund revenue surplus to the General Fund Budget Reserve Account.

56 (ii) If the transfer of 25% of the General Fund revenue surplus to the General Fund
57 Budget Reserve Account would cause the balance in the account to exceed 9% of General Fund
58 appropriations for the fiscal year in which the revenue surplus occurred, the Division of

59 Finance shall transfer only those funds necessary to ensure that the balance in the account
60 equals 9% of General Fund appropriations for the fiscal year in which the General Fund
61 revenue surplus occurred.

62 (iii) The Division of Finance shall calculate the amount to be transferred under this
63 Subsection (3)(a):

64 (A) after making the transfer of General Fund revenue surplus to the Medicaid Growth
65 Reduction and Budget Stabilization Account, as provided in Section [63J-1-315](#);

66 (B) before transferring from the General Fund revenue surplus any other year-end
67 contingency appropriations, year-end set-asides, or other year-end transfers required by law;
68 and

69 (C) excluding any direct legislative appropriation made to the General Fund Budget
70 Reserve Account for the fiscal year.

71 (b) (i) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b)(ii), in addition to Subsection (3)(a)(i), if
72 a General Fund revenue surplus exists and if, within the last 10 years, the Legislature has
73 appropriated any money from the General Fund Budget Reserve Account that has not been
74 replaced by appropriation or as provided in this Subsection (3)(b), the Division of Finance shall
75 transfer up to 25% more of the General Fund revenue surplus to the General Fund Budget
76 Reserve Account to replace the amounts appropriated, until direct legislative appropriations, if
77 any, and transfers from the General Fund revenue surplus under this Subsection (3)(b) have
78 replaced the appropriations from the account.

79 (ii) If the transfer under Subsection (3)(b)(i) would cause the balance in the account to
80 exceed 9% of General Fund appropriations for the fiscal year in which the revenue surplus
81 occurred, the Division of Finance shall transfer only those funds necessary to ensure that the
82 balance in the account equals 9% of General Fund appropriations for the fiscal year in which
83 the revenue surplus occurred.

84 (iii) The Division of Finance shall calculate the amount to be transferred under this
85 Subsection (3)(b):

86 (A) after making the transfer of General Fund revenue surplus to the Medicaid Growth
87 Reduction and Budget Stabilization Account, as provided in Section [63J-1-315](#);

88 (B) before transferring from the General Fund revenue surplus any other year-end
89 contingency appropriations, year-end set-asides, or other year-end transfers required by law;

90 and

91 (C) excluding any direct legislative appropriation made to the General Fund Budget
92 Reserve Account for the fiscal year.

93 (c) For appropriations made by the Legislature to the General Fund Budget Reserve
94 Account, the Division of Finance shall treat those appropriations, unless otherwise specified in
95 the appropriation, as replacement funds for appropriations made from the account if funds were
96 appropriated from the General Fund Budget Reserve Account within the past 10 years and have
97 not yet been replaced.

98 (4) The Legislature may appropriate money from the General Fund Budget Reserve
99 Account only to:

100 (a) resolve a General Fund budget deficit, for the fiscal year in which the General Fund
101 budget deficit occurs;

102 (b) pay some or all of state settlement agreements approved under Title 63G, Chapter
103 10, State Settlement Agreements Act;

104 (c) pay retroactive tax refunds; [~~or~~]

105 (d) resolve an Education Fund budget deficit[-]; or

106 (e) finance an existing federally funded program or activity when:

107 (i) the federal funds expected to fund the federal program or activity are not available
108 to fund the program or activity; and

109 (ii) the Legislature and governor concurrently determine that the program or activity is
110 essential.

111 (5) Interest generated from investments of money in the General Fund Budget Reserve
112 Account shall be deposited into the General Fund.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel