STATE OF CONNECTICUT

House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 866

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7267

House of Representatives, May 8, 2025

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through REP. HORN of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- Section 1. Section 2-36b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 3 (a) [No] <u>Not</u> later than December fifteenth each year, the joint 4 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
- 5 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and
- 6 finance, revenue and bonding shall meet with the Secretary of the Office
- 7 of Policy and Management, the director of the legislative Office of Fiscal
- 8 Analysis, and such other persons as they deem appropriate, to consider
- 9 the items submitted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.
- 10 (b) On or before November twentieth, annually, the Secretary of the
- 11 Office of Policy and Management and the director of the legislative
- 12 Office of Fiscal Analysis shall each submit the following to the joint
- 13 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of

matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and finance, revenue and bonding:

- 16 (1) For the current biennium and the next ensuing three fiscal years, 17 a consensus estimate of state revenues developed in accordance with 18 subsection (a) of section 2-36c, an estimate of the level of expenditure 19 change from current year expenditures allowable by consensus revenue 20 estimates in each fund, any changes to current year expenditures 21 necessitated by fixed cost drivers [, and the aggregate changes to current 22 year expenditures required to accommodate fixed cost drivers without 23 exceeding current revenue estimates] and an estimate of material and 24 likely changes to nonfixed costs;
- 25 (2) [the] <u>The</u> projected tax credits to be used in the current biennium 26 and the next ensuing three fiscal years, and the assumptions on which 27 such projections are based;
- 28 (3) [a] A summary of any estimated deficiencies in the current fiscal 29 year, the reasons for such deficiencies, and the assumptions upon which 30 such estimates are based;
- 31 (4) [the] <u>The</u> projected balance in the Budget Reserve Fund at the end 32 of each uncompleted fiscal year of the current biennium and the next 33 ensuing three fiscal years;
- (5) [the] <u>The</u> projected bond authorizations, allocations and issuances
 in each of the next ensuing five fiscal years and their impact on the debt
 service of the major funds of the state;
 - (6) [an] An analysis of revenue and expenditure trends and of the major cost drivers affecting state spending, including identification of any areas of concern and efforts undertaken to address such areas, including, but not limited to, efforts to obtain federal funds; and
 - (7) [an] <u>An</u> analysis of [possible uses of surplus funds, including, but not limited to, the Budget Reserve Fund, debt retirement and funding of pension liabilities] <u>the state's preparedness for plausible recession scenarios</u>, including estimates of the size of multiyear budget deficits

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that may result from revenue declines and other contingencies, and an assessment of the sufficiency of the Budget Reserve Fund and other state resources to address such budget deficits.

(c) For purposes of this section, "fixed cost drivers" may include costs related to debt service, pension contributions, retiree health care, entitlement programs and federal mandates.

[(c)] (d) On or before November 15, 2010, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall submit to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and finance, revenue and bonding for the biennium commencing July 1, 2011, and each biennium thereafter, a summary in electronic database format of all nonappropriated moneys held by each budgeted agency, which shall be an accounting of moneys received or held by the agency that are authorized or received by any manner other than as an appropriation, at the end of the last-completed fiscal year in a form consistent with accepted accounting practice.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	from passage	2-36b

FIN Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The modified reporting requirements in the bill have no fiscal impact, as they fall within the scope of the agencies' existing expertise.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis sHB 7267

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT.

SUMMARY

This bill changes specified components of the annual legislative reports the Office of Policy and Management and Office of Fiscal Analysis must submit on revenue and spending estimates for the current biennium and the three following fiscal years (fiscal accountability reports). Specifically, the bill requires the reports to include an:

- 1. estimate of material and likely changes to nonfixed costs, in addition to spending changes due to fixed cost drivers, as current law requires, and
- 2. analysis of the state's preparedness for plausible recession scenarios, including (a) estimating the size of multiyear budget deficits from revenue declines and other contingencies and (b) assessing whether the Budget Reserve Fund and other state resources are enough to address these deficits.

The bill also eliminates the requirements that the reports include (1) the total spending change required to accommodate fixed cost drivers without exceeding current revenue estimates and (2) an analysis of possible uses of surplus funds, including paying into the Budget Reserve Fund, retiring debt, and funding pension liabilities.

As under existing law, the reports must include:

- 1. estimated level of spending change from current year spending allowed by consensus revenue estimates in each fund;
- 2. any changes to current year spending needed due to fixed cost

drivers, such as debt service, pension contributions, retiree health care, entitlement programs, and federal mandate costs; and

3. specified other analyses, including the projected Budget Reserve Fund balance for the applicable fiscal years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Yea 52 Nay 0 (04/24/2025)