

AMENDED

To: House Appropriations

From: House Government Operations

Re: Provisions in the Governor's Proposed FY2018 State Budget

Date: March 1, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to review these proposals.

Our committee was unable to come to any consensus regarding the budget proposals referred to us. We took substantial testimony; we discussed at length.

Some committee members felt strongly that we should give the new administration the opportunity to follow through without change to the proposals... give them room to manage, to do their job.

Some committee members felt that a message needs to be communicated regarding the size of state government. One suggestion was to set a cap on the number of positions at 9172, not to be exceeded without coming back to the Legislature for approval. This number reflects the current 9082 positions increased by 90, which is approximately 80% of the average position growth over the last few years. This suggestion also included maintaining the position pilot program until July 1, 2018. Another suggestion set a cap on the number of positions at the current 9082 and eliminated the position pilot program as of July 1, 2017.

The straw polls we held on each section reflect the degree of our division:

Sec.A.107 New positions

5 in favor – 5 opposed

Sec.B.1101 FY2018 one-time general fund appropriations

7 in favor – 3 opposed

B.1102 Management savings

7 in favor – 3 opposed

Sec.D.100 Appropriations; property transfer tax

6 in favor – 4 opposed

Sec.D100.1 32VSA9610

7 in favor – 3 opposed

Sec.E.100 Executive branch position authorizations

5 in favor – 5 opposed

Sec.E.100.1 2014 Acts and Resolves No.179, Sec.E.100(d)

7 in favor – 3 opposed
Sec.E.400 Repeal
10 in favor – 0 opposed

Sec.E.514 State teachers' retirement system
(a)(b) 7 in favor – 3 opposed
(c) 4 in favor – 7 opposed

Sec.E.515 Retired teachers' health care and medical benefits
First sentence 7 in favor -- 3 opposed
Second sentence 4 in favor – 7 opposed