

To: House Appropriations
From: House Government Operations
Re: Provisions in the Governor's Proposed FY2018 State Budget
Date: March 1, 2017

Our committee was unable to come to consensus regarding the budget proposals referred to us. We took substantial testimony; we discussed at length. The size of state government and how to manage continued growth in the number of positions was a major issue, perhaps *the* major issue.

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.

Others 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

7 in favor – 3 opposed

Sec.E.515 Retired teachers' health care and medical benefits

7 in favor -- 3 opposed