



## 2011 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 100

February 1, 2012 – Introduced by Representatives KOOYENGA, MARKLEIN, KAPENGA, KLENKE, STRACHOTA, THIESFELDT, KRUG, CRAIG, HONADEL, PETERSEN, LITJENS, NYGREN, STEINEKE, FARROW, KAUFERT, RIVARD, SUDER, KNILANS, MURSAU, STROEBEL, WEININGER, A. OTT, JACQUE, KNUDSON, BROOKS, ZIEGELBAUER, KERKMAN, VAN ROY, SPANBAUER, SEVERSON, WYNN, WILLIAMS, T. LARSON, KNODL, ENDSLEY, LOUDENBECK and MOLEPSKE JR, cosponsored by Senators ZIPPERER, LASEE, LEIBHAM, LAZICH, COWLES, SCHULTZ, OLSEN and GROTHMAN. Referred to Committee on Homeland Security and State Affairs.

- 1     **To amend** section 5 of article VIII of the constitution; **relating to:** accounting and  
2           expenditure of state funds and reduction of deficit (first consideration).

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This proposed constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2011 legislature on first consideration, requires the state to account for and report all funds it receives or expends in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

The amendment further authorizes the legislature to establish the budgetary basis of accounting, requires that any deficit of a state fund affected by a budget bill be reduced annually by 10 percent of any projected increase in tax revenues in that fund, and requires that once the deficit is eliminated, the legislature may not pass any bill that would result in a projected deficit.

A constitutional amendment requires adoption by two successive legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it can become effective.

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- 3           **SECTION 1.** Section 5 of article VIII of the constitution is amended to read:  
4           [Article VIII] Section 5. The legislature shall provide for an annual tax  
5           sufficient to defray the estimated expenses of the state for each year; and whenever  
6           the expenses of any year shall exceed the income, the legislature shall provide for  
7           levying a tax for the ensuing year, sufficient, with other sources of income, to pay the

1 deficiency as well as the estimated expenses of such ensuing year. The legislature  
2 may establish the basis of accounting to be used for budget purposes. In addition to  
3 the statutory basis of accounting, the state shall account for and report all funds it  
4 receives or spends including, but not limited to, component units in accordance with  
5 generally accepted accounting principles. The legislature may not pass any bill that  
6 would cause an increase in the projected deficit in any state fund under generally  
7 accepted accounting principles. The legislature shall pass an annual or biennial  
8 budget bill that is projected to reduce any existing deficit in any state fund that is  
9 affected by the budget bill reported under generally accepted accounting principles  
10 by at least one-tenth of any projected annual increase of tax revenues deposited in  
11 that state fund in each fiscal year. Once any deficit in a state fund under generally  
12 accepted accounting principles is eliminated, the legislature may not pass any bill  
13 affecting that fund that would result in a projected deficit in that state fund under  
14 generally accepted accounting principles.

15 ***Be it further resolved, That*** this proposed amendment be referred to the  
16 legislature to be chosen at the next general election and that it be published for three  
17 months previous to the time of holding such election.

18 (END)