

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1987

HOUSE BILL 1011

By: Representatives Lipton, Thicksten, & Willems

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL, AT EACH ODD-YEAR REGULAR BIENNIAL SESSION, PREPARE, ENACT, AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A STATE BUDGET ONLY FOR THE FIRST FISCAL YEAR OF THE NEXT BIENNIUM, AND SHALL RECESS THE REGULAR ODD-YEAR SESSION TO RECONVENE ON THE SECOND MONDAY IN JANUARY OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR, FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PREPARING, ENACTING, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR A STATE BUDGET FOR THE SECOND FISCAL YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM, FOR APPROPRIATING SUCH OTHER FUNDS AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE, FOR REVISING THE REVENUE STABILIZATION LAW TO FUND SUCH APPROPRIATIONS, AND TO ENACT LAWS PROVIDING FOR SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL REVENUES, IF DEEMED NECESSARY, TO FUND THE BUDGET; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that due to:

- (a) the unusual growth of the overall State budget,
- (b) the unprecedented expansion of State services in recent years,
- (c) the unpredictable economic situation in the State, and

(d) the anticipation of further cutbacks by the Congress in the amount of federal funds provided for many State and local programs which are supported in whole or in part by federal funds, it is impractical, if not impossible, for the General Assembly to responsibly and intelligently make a State budget two years in advance. The General Assembly deems it essential to the best interest of the State and the people that the General Assembly budget for the various State agencies, institutions, boards, commissions, offices, and programs, one fiscal year at a time, thereby enabling the General Assembly to enact a budget for the second year of the

fiscal biennium with more meaningful and up-to-date information and means of evaluating needs and priorities than is available at the time the General Assembly meets in odd-numbered year sessions. It is, therefore, the purpose and intent of this Act to authorize and establish, until the General Assembly determines otherwise, a procedure for the General Assembly to prepare, enact a budget, and appropriate funds for the various State agencies, institutions, boards, commissions, offices, and programs on a single fiscal year basis.

It is further determined by the General Assembly that the enactment of the procedures established in this Act is essential to the orderly preparation of budget requests by State agencies, and to enable the Governor and the Legislative Council, which serves as the pre-session budget committee of the General Assembly, to appropriately discharge their duties in preparing budgets for legislative consideration on an annual basis.

SECTION 2. The Seventy-Seventh General Assembly shall, at the 1989 regular session, and the General Assembly shall, at each regular odd-year biennial session thereafter, until otherwise provided by law, prepare and enact a budget and appropriate funds for each State agency, institution, board, commission, office, and program for the first fiscal year of the next succeeding biennium only and, upon completion of other business of the regular business of the regular session, recess to reconvene on the second Monday in January of the next succeeding year, for the sole purpose of:

(a) preparing and enacting budgets and appropriating funds for the various State agencies, institutions, boards, commissions, offices, and programs for the second fiscal year of the biennium;

(b) appropriating such other funds as it deems appropriate;

(c) making revisions to the Revenue Stabilization Law to fund such appropriations; and

(d) enacting laws providing new or additional sources of revenues to fund the financial commitments of such budget, if necessary.

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

