FIRST REGULAR SESSION

[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]

HOUSE BILL NO. 451

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1348L.01T 2013

AN ACT

To repeal section 50.622, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to procedures for counties to decrease their budgets.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 50.622, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 50.622, to read as follows:

50.622. **1.** Any county may amend the annual budget during any fiscal year in which the county receives additional funds, and such amount or source, including but not limited to, federal or state grants or private donations, could not be estimated when the budget was adopted. The county shall follow the same procedures as required in sections 50.525 to 50.745 for adoption of the annual budget to amend its budget during a fiscal year.

2. Any county may decrease the annual budget twice during any fiscal year in which the county experiences a verifiable decline in funds of two percent or more, and such amount could not be estimated or anticipated when the budget was adopted, provided that any decrease in appropriations shall not unduly affect any one officeholder. Before any reduction affecting an independently elected officeholder can occur, negotiations shall take place with all officeholders who receive funds from the affected category of funds in an attempt to cover the shortfall. The county shall follow the same procedures as required in sections 50.525 to 50.745 to decrease the annual budget, except that the notice provided for in section 50.600 shall be extended to thirty days for purposes of this subsection. Such notice shall include a published summary of the proposed reductions and an explanation of the shortfall.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[**thus**]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

3. Any decrease in an appropriation authorized under subsection 2 of this section shall not impact any dedicated fund otherwise provided by law.

4. County commissioners may reduce budgets of departments under their direct supervision and responsibility at any time without the restrictions imposed by this section.

5. Subsections 2, 3, and 4 of this section shall expire on July 1, 2016.

6. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, no charter county shall be restricted from amending its budget under the terms of its charter.

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