Chapter 82.33 RCW
ECONOMIC AND REVENUE FORECASTS

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RCW 82.33.010 Economic and revenue forecast council—Oversight and approval of economic and revenue forecasts. (1) The economic and revenue forecast council is hereby created. The council shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor, the state treasurer, and four individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from among the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other officers as the members deem necessary.

(2) The council shall employ an economic and revenue forecast supervisor to supervise the preparation of all economic and revenue forecasts and the presentation of state budget outlooks. As used in this chapter, "supervisor" means the economic and revenue forecast supervisor. Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of the council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes of this section.

(3) The economic and revenue forecast council shall oversee the preparation of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least five members, the official, optimistic, and pessimistic state economic and revenue forecasts prepared under RCW 82.33.020. If the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in RCW 82.33.020, the supervisor shall submit the forecast without approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved by the council.

(4) The economic and revenue forecast council shall oversee the preparation of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least five members, the state budget outlook prepared under RCW 82.33.060. If the council is unable to approve a state budget outlook before a date required in RCW 82.33.060, the supervisor shall submit the outlook
prepared under RCW 82.33.060 without approval and the outlook shall have the same effect as if approved by the council.

(5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for approval of the official economic and revenue forecast or the state budget outlook may request, and the supervisor shall provide, an alternative economic and revenue forecast or state budget outlook based on assumptions specified by the member including, for purposes of the state budget outlook, revenues to and expenditures from additional funds.

(6) Members of the economic and revenue forecast council shall serve without additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the council or on official business authorized by the council. Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [2012 1st sp.s. c 8 § 2; 1990 c 229 § 1; 1984 c 138 § 4. Formerly RCW 82.01.130.]

**Effective date—1990 c 229:** See note following RCW 41.06.087.
section of the department of revenue but may not duplicate the duties and functions of one another.

(5) As part of its forecasts under subsection (1) of this section, the supervisor must provide estimated revenue from tuition fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020.

(6) The economic and revenue forecast council must, in consultation with the economic and revenue forecast work group created in RCW 82.33.040, review the existing economic and revenue forecast council revenue model, data, and methodologies and in light of recent economic changes, engage outside experts if necessary, and recommend changes to the economic and revenue forecast council revenue forecasting process to increase confidence and promote accuracy in the revenue forecast. The recommendations are due by September 30, 2012, and every five years thereafter. [2015 c 3 § 14; 2012 1st sp.s. c 8 § 3; 2012 c 182 § 1; 2005 c 319 § 137; 1992 c 231 § 34; 1990 c 229 § 2. Prior: 1987 c 505 § 79; 1987 c 502 § 10; 1986 c 112 § 2; 1984 c 138 § 1. Formerly RCW 82.01.120.]

Reviser's note: This section was amended by 2012 c 182 § 1 and by 2012 1st sp.s. c 8 § 3, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Effective date—2015 c 3: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [February 19, 2015]." [2015 c 3 § 16.]

Effective date—2012 c 182: "This act takes effect October 1, 2012." [2012 c 182 § 2.]


Effective date—1990 c 229: See note following RCW 41.06.087.

RCW 82.33.030 Alternative economic and revenue forecasts to be provided at the request of the legislative evaluation and accountability program committee. The administrator of the legislative evaluation and accountability program committee may request, and the supervisor shall provide, alternative economic and revenue forecasts based on assumptions specified by the administrator. [1984 c 138 § 3. Formerly RCW 82.01.125.]

Legislative evaluation and accountability program committee: Chapter 44.48 RCW.

RCW 82.33.040 Economic and revenue forecast work group—Availability of information to group—Provision of technical support to economic and revenue forecast council—Meetings. (1) To promote the free flow of information and to promote legislative input in the preparation of forecasts, immediate access to all information relating
to economic and revenue forecasts shall be available to the economic and revenue forecast work group, hereby created. Revenue collection information shall be available to the economic and revenue forecast work group the first business day following the conclusion of each collection period. The economic and revenue forecast work group shall consist of one staff member selected by the executive head or chairperson of each of the following agencies or committees:

(a) Department of revenue;
(b) Office of financial management;
(c) Legislative evaluation and accountability program committee;
(d) Ways and means committee of the senate; and
(e) Ways and means committee of the house of representatives.
(2) The economic and revenue forecast work group shall provide technical support to the economic and revenue forecast council. Meetings of the economic and revenue forecast work group may be called by any member of the group for the purpose of assisting the economic and revenue forecast council, reviewing the state economic and revenue forecasts, or reviewing monthly revenue collection data or for any other purpose which may assist the economic and revenue forecast council. [1986 c 158 § 23; 1984 c 138 § 5. Formerly RCW 82.01.135.]

RCW 82.33.050 Employment growth forecast and general state revenue estimates. The state economic and revenue forecast council shall perform the state employment growth forecast and general state revenue estimates required by Article VII, section 12. [2007 c 484 § 3.]

Contingent effective date—2007 c 484 §§ 2-8: See note following RCW 43.79.495.

RCW 82.33.060 State budget outlook—Requirements. (1) To facilitate compliance with, and subject to the terms of, RCW 43.88.055 and 43.88.030, the state budget outlook work group shall prepare, subject to the approval of the economic and revenue forecast council under RCW 82.33.010, an official state budget outlook for state revenues and expenditures for the general fund and related funds. The revenue and caseload projections used in the outlook must reflect the most recent official forecasts adopted by the economic and revenue forecast council and the caseload forecast council for the years for which those forecasts are available.

(2) The outlook must:

(a) Estimate revenues to and expenditures from the state general fund and related funds. The estimate of ensuing biennium expenditures must include maintenance items including, but not limited to, continuation of current programs, forecasted growth of current entitlement programs, and actions required by law, including legislation with a future implementation date. Estimates of ensuing biennium expenditures must exclude policy items including, but not limited to, legislation not yet enacted by the legislature, collective bargaining agreements not yet approved by the legislature, and changes to levels of funding for employee salaries and benefits unless those changes are required by statute. Estimated maintenance level expenditures must also exclude costs of court rulings issued during or
within fewer than ninety days before the beginning of the current legislative session;
(b) Address major budget and revenue drivers, including trends and variability in these drivers;
(c) Clearly state the assumptions used in the estimates of baseline and projected expenditures and any adjustments made to those estimates;
(d) Clearly state the assumptions used in the baseline revenue estimates and any adjustments to those estimates; and
(e) Include the impact of previously enacted legislation with a future implementation date.
(3) The outlook must also separately include projections based on the revenues and expenditures proposed in the governor's budget documents submitted to the legislature under RCW 43.88.030.
(4) The economic and revenue forecast council shall submit state budget outlooks prepared under this section to the governor and the members of the committees on ways and means of the senate and house of representatives, including one copy to the staff of each of the committees, as required by this section.
(5) Each January, the state budget outlook work group shall also prepare, subject to the approval of the economic and revenue forecast council, a state budget outlook for state revenues and expenditures that reflects the governor's proposed budget document submitted to the legislature under chapter 43.88 RCW. Within thirty days following enactment of an operating budget by the legislature, the work group shall prepare, subject to the approval of the economic and revenue forecast council, a state budget outlook for state revenues and expenditures that reflects the enacted budget.
(6) All agencies of state government shall provide to the supervisor immediate access to all information relating to state budget outlooks.
(7) The state budget outlook work group must publish its proposed methodology on the economic and revenue forecast council website. The state budget outlook work group, in consultation with the economic and revenue forecast work group and outside experts if necessary, must analyze the extent to which the proposed methodology for projecting expenditures for the ensuing fiscal biennia may be reliably used to determine the future impact of appropriations and make recommendations to change the outlook process to increase reliability and accuracy. The recommendations are due by December 1, 2013, and every five years thereafter. [2020 c 218 § 5; 2012 1st sp.s. c 8 § 4.]

Effective date—2020 c 218: See note following RCW 43.88.030.

RCW 82.33.070 State budget outlook—Work group. (1) To promote the free flow of information and to promote legislative input in the preparation of the state budget outlook, immediate access to all information relating to the state budget outlook shall be available to the state budget outlook work group, hereby created. The state budget outlook work group shall consist of one staff member selected by the executive head or chairperson of each of the following agencies or committees:
(a) Office of financial management;
(b) Legislative evaluation and accountability program committee;
(c) Office of the state treasurer;
(d) Economic and revenue forecast council;
(e) Caseload forecast council;
(f) Ways and means committee of the senate; and
(g) Ways and means committee of the house of representatives.

(2) The state budget outlook work group shall provide technical support to the economic and revenue forecast council. Meetings of the state budget outlook work group may be called by any member of the group for the purpose of assisting the economic and revenue forecast council, reviewing the state budget outlook, or for any other purpose which may assist the economic and revenue forecast council. [2012 1st sp.s. c 8 § 5.]