

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 65

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 1996

By Assemblymen **ROBERTS, ROMANO**, Assemblywoman **Buono**,  
Assemblymen **Suliga, Doria and Jones**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** creating Joint Rules of the Legislature  
2 establishing procedures for deliberation on and consideration of the annual  
3 appropriations bill.

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5 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey  
6 (*the Senate concurring*):

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8 The Joint Rules of the Senate and General Assembly are amended by the  
9 addition of the following rules to be appropriately numbered:

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11 1. The chair of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the  
12 chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee shall schedule public  
13 hearings, which may be conducted as separate or joint committee hearings of  
14 the committees, on the subject of the Governor's budget recommendations  
15 transmitted to the Legislature for the ensuing State fiscal year. Each public  
16 hearing shall be conducted to solicit the testimony of all interested members of  
17 the general public upon the Governor's budget recommendations but each  
18 hearing shall be limited in scope to testimony upon no more than four  
19 Executive branch departments, four non-Executive branch spending agencies,  
20 or four distinct budget topics. These public hearings may be conducted at the  
21 other hearings of the committees immediately following the testimony of State  
22 government officials upon the budget recommendations or before the  
23 committees upon other dates.

24 The time, place and subject matters of each public hearing shall be  
25 determined by the chairs and communicated by each chair to the Office of  
26 Legislative Services for public notice thereof at least ten days in advance of  
27 each public hearing.

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29 2. The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly  
30 Appropriations Committee shall undertake the preparation of the annual  
31 appropriations bill by the consideration of budget resolutions filed with the  
32 committees that propose to add, delete or otherwise change items in the  
33 Governor's budget recommendations transmitted to the Legislature. Budget  
34 resolutions detailing each item proposed to be added, deleted or changed may

1 be sponsored by members of the Legislature, or by the Executive branch  
2 through the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting. Budget  
3 resolutions shall contain a statement explaining the proposed changes and the  
4 reasons therefor. All budget resolutions shall be filed with the committees  
5 before June 1, annually, except that budget resolutions may be filed with a  
6 committee on or after June 1, only upon a motion approved by all the  
7 authorized members of a committee. All resolutions to be filed with each  
8 committee shall be delivered to the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer and  
9 shall be made available to the public through the Office of Legislative Services.

10 Each budget resolution filed with each committee shall be considered for  
11 adoption by the respective committee by way of separate, recorded roll call  
12 vote at an open public meeting of the respective committee held on or before  
13 June 15 annually, held either as separate or joint meetings of the committees,  
14 with a budget resolution considered adopted only upon the affirmative vote of  
15 a majority of the authorized membership of the respective committee by  
16 separate roll call votes during the meeting. No vote to approve a budget  
17 resolution shall be subject to a motion to lay on the table. A vote to adopt  
18 multiple budget resolutions by way of one recorded roll call vote shall be  
19 permitted but only upon a motion approved by all the authorized members of  
20 a committee. Resolutions filed with a committee shall be available to all  
21 committee members at least 72 hours before the meeting at which those  
22 budget resolutions may be considered for adoption. Budget resolutions filed  
23 with a committee shall be available for public inspection at the meeting of a  
24 committee at which those budget resolutions may be considered for adoption.

25 Upon the conclusion of all voting upon budget resolutions by a committee,  
26 the chair shall direct that the Office of Legislative Services prepare for delivery  
27 to the chair an annual appropriations bill which shall reflect the Governor's  
28 budget recommendations as changed through all budget resolutions adopted  
29 by that committee.

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31 3. The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee after introduction  
32 of the annual appropriations bill in the Senate, and the Assembly  
33 Appropriations Committee after introduction of the annual appropriations bill  
34 in the General Assembly, shall each hold at least one public hearing, and are  
35 encouraged to hold several additional public hearings in different geographical  
36 regions of the State, during evening hours convenient to the public, which  
37 hearings may be held by the committees either separately or jointly, on the  
38 subject of the annual appropriations bill at which members of the Legislature  
39 and the Executive branch, and any interested members of the public may  
40 testify. Each committee shall have the proceedings of these public hearings  
41 recorded and shall have the transcript of the hearings printed, bound and  
42 available for all members of the respective house of the Legislature at least 24  
43 hours before commencement of debate in the respective house on the third

1 reading of the annual appropriations bill.

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3 4. This concurrent resolution shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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8 This concurrent resolution proposes joint legislative rules establishing  
9 procedures for consideration of the annual State budget by the Senate Budget  
10 and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Appropriations Committee.  
11 The joint rules require the committees to hold public hearings to receive public  
12 input on each department's budget as recommended in the Governor's budget  
13 message to the Legislature. The joint rules also establish a budget resolution  
14 process whereby the committees will consider and vote upon changes to the  
15 Governor's budget recommendations only at open public meetings pursuant  
16 to resolutions filed by legislators or by the Executive branch. The  
17 appropriations bill will be directed by the chairs to be prepared to reflect the  
18 Governor's budget recommendations with changes adopted only pursuant to  
19 resolutions approved by individual, recorded majority roll call votes of the  
20 committee members. The committees will be required to hold at least one  
21 public hearing after the introduction of the appropriations bill with transcripts  
22 of the public testimony available to members of each house of the Legislature  
23 at least 24 hours before house debate on final passage of the budget bill may  
24 begin.

25 This concurrent resolution is a companion measure to Assembly Bill No.  
26 1694 of 1996, the "Public Accountability for Revenues and Expenditures Act,"  
27 that revises the Executive branch procedures for the development and  
28 submission of the Governor's annual budget recommendations, to promote  
29 public participation and government accountability in the State budget process.

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34 Proposes joint legislative rules on consideration and preparation of the annual  
35 appropriations bill.