

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Baddour, Steven (SEN)

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to zero-based budgeting and budget transparency.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Baddour, Steven (SEN)	First Essex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S01906 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ZERO-BASED BUDGETING AND BUDGET TRANSPARENCY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by adding the following new section after Section 5F: -

3
4 Section 5G: Development and Adoption of Zero-Based Budget Estimates

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6 1. The Secretary of Administration and Finance, with the approval of the Governor, shall on a
7 quadrennial basis develop and submit to the Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives a zero-
8 based budget, so-called, for each agency and department of state government.

9 Said zero-based budget shall reflect the amount of funding deemed necessary to achieve the most cost-
10 effective performance of each agency or department pursuant to an accompanying narrative delineating
11 the tasks to be performed by that agency or department, together with goals and objectives for each
12 agency or department for a period not to exceed four years. Said budget shall have a zero dollar amount
13 as its basis, and shall not reflect any prior appropriation amount, adjusted or otherwise.

14 2. Said zero-based budget shall be referred by the Senate and House of Representatives to the
15 committees of subject matter jurisdiction relevant to each component of said budget. Such committees

16 shall evaluate each such component, taking into account all available information, including that provided
17 by public testimony in oral and written form. The evaluations of the committee shall then be reported to
18 the Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means.

19 3. The Ways and Means Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives shall, jointly or
20 individually, conduct at least one public hearing on the zero-based budget and shall also receive written
21 and electronic testimony for a period of not less than 30 days on said budget.

22 Said ways and means committees shall jointly develop and submit to the Clerks of the Senate and House
23 of Representatives a zero-based budget estimate not later than 60 days following the receipt of the zero-
24 based budget estimate filed by the Secretary pursuant to Section 1 above.

25 Said zero-based budget estimate shall be included in a joint resolution and placed before the members of
26 the General Court for their consideration. Such joint resolution, if adopted, shall be employed in
27 evaluating each annual budget considered by the General Court for the four years following its adoption.

28 4. Zero-based budgeting shall mean, for the purposes of this section, a means of developing
29 appropriations based on the cost-effective achievement of the tasks and goals of a particular agency or
30 department without regard to prior appropriations, adjusted for inflation or otherwise. Any appropriation
31 so developed shall to the extent possible, be accompanied by a brief description of said tasks and goals
32 together with the performance measure of the achievement of those tasks and goals.