



**The House Ways & Means Committee will be considering the following proposed committee bills at the meeting on Thursday March 8th at 3:30-6:00 pm in 17 HOB (Morris Hall).**

**[PCB WMC 17-01 -- Local Government Fiscal Transparency](#)  
[Staff Analysis WMC 17-01](#)**

**[PCB WMC 17-02 -- Local Government Fiscal Responsibility](#)  
[Staff Analysis WMC 17-02](#)**

### **Local Government Fiscal Responsibility (WMC 17-01)**

- Local governments, except schools, can't adopt over millage rolled-back rate unless they spend down "excess unencumbered fund balances" in special funds below 10%. In effect, this prohibits property tax increases unless excess fund balances are spent down.
- Prohibits cities and counties (exempts schools) from enacting, extending or increasing local option taxes other than property taxes, if they had adopted a millage rate in excess of the rolled-back rate (with certain specified exceptions) in any of the three previous years.
- Requires any local option or property tax (including special districts) that require voter approval to be on a general election ballot with a 60% threshold for passage.
  - For example- CST, local business tax, local option surtaxes, TDT, public service tax, gas taxes.
- Requires that a school capital outlay resolution must be approved by a 4/5 vote of the school board to place the question on the ballot for voter approval.
- Requires voter approval for any new tax-supported debt (beyond 5 years) and must be on a general election ballot with a 60% threshold for passage.
  - Except, in an emergency (defined by ch. 252 --Emergency Management) the governing board, by a 4/5 vote, can authorize a vote at an election other

than the general election, while still requiring 60% voter approval with the proceeds only being used for said emergency.

- Effective October 1, 2018

### **Local Government Fiscal Transparency (WMC 17-02)**

Requires additional public meetings and public notice requirements for local option tax increases, other than property taxes, and new, long-term tax-supported debt.

- Requires additional information on website such as voting records for tax increases and issuance of tax-supported debt, history of millage rates and levies, etc.
- Requires local governments to conduct and consider debt affordability analysis prior to approving new, long-term tax-supported debt that includes calculating a debt affordability ratio.
  - The debt affordability ratio is the annual debt service for outstanding tax-supported debt divided by total annual revenues available to pay debt service on outstanding debt.
- Requires auditor to report whether the local government is complying these new provisions and sets a timeline for response/corrective action to the Auditor General.
- Effective July 1, 2017



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