



City of Pittsburgh

510 City-County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Text File

Introduced: 3/24/2009

Bill No: 2009-1241, **Version:** 1

Committee: Committee on Finance and Law

Status: Died due to expiration of legislative council session

Presented by Mr. Dowd

Ordinance supplementing the Pittsburgh Code, Title One, Administrative, Article V, Legislative, Chapter 151: Council, by adding Section 151.11 entitled Revenue-Neutral Reconciliation.

Whereas, Council has an obligation to ensure that the administration of City government and the provision of quality, affordable City services do not create an undue burden on the taxpayers' ability to provide for themselves adequate food, shelter, clothing and other quality-of-life necessities; and,

Whereas, the taxpayers have every right to expect that this government will live within its means and not treat taxpayers' dollars as a "blank check"; and,

Whereas, Article V, Section 502 of the Pittsburgh Home Rule Charter states that "There shall be an annual balanced operating budget and an annual capital budget"; and,

Whereas, the City's current five-year plan, approved by City Council, projects balanced budgets in each of its five years; and,

Whereas, any legislative changes approved by Council unsupported by either new revenues or expenditure reductions would likely create an unbalanced budget in violation of the Home Rule Charter; and,

Whereas, members of City Council, upon their taking office, each swore an oath to uphold the Pittsburgh Home Rule Charter.

Be it resolved that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The Pittsburgh Code of Ordinances, Title One, Administrative, Article V: Legislative, Chapter 151, Council, is hereby supplemented by adding § 151.11, "Revenue-Neutral Reconciliation" as follows:

Chapter 151: Council

§ 151.11 Revenue-Neutral Reconciliation

Once the annual operating and capital budgets and the five-year financial plan(s) have been approved by

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Council, no legislative or fiscal action constituting a variance from that which Council approved shall be approved by Council unless one the following conditions are first met:

- The member(s) sponsoring legislative and/or fiscal action(s) shall identify either new revenue source(s) or expenditure reduction(s) supporting the proposed actions(s) so that there shall be no net loss of revenues to the City, and the reconciliation(s) shall accompany the Ordinance(s) or Resolution(s);
- The Mayor, pursuant to the authority granted by the Pittsburgh Code, Article III, Chapter 113, §113.03 (c), declares a disaster emergency which is ratified by Council;
- The City is ordered to authorize an expenditure either by the General Assembly, a court of law or a superseding governmental authority.