



# HOUSE BILL 273: Local Government Budget Hearings.

2023-2024 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Local Government. If favorable, re- refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 4, 2023
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Winslow, Balkcom	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Billy Godwin
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H273-CSST-6		Alex Ramirez Staff Attorneys

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**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to H273 would add requirements to the content of the budget officer's budget message for all units subject to the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, and for those local governments on the unit assistance list, require all of the following:*

- *An additional public budget hearing prior to adoption of a local government budget ordinance.*
- *Written notice to all property owners, if the budget includes a property tax increase.*
- *Written notice to periodically billed customers of a public enterprise, if the budget includes either a rate increase or a transfer of funds from the general fund to the public enterprise.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (LGBFCA) requires the budget officer, on the same day that the budget is submitted to the governing board, to file a copy of it in the office of the clerk to the board where it must remain available for public inspection until the budget ordinance is adopted. The clerk must make a copy of the budget available to all news media in the county and publish a statement that the budget has been submitted to the governing board, is available for public inspection in the office of the clerk to the board, and give notice of the time and place of the required budget hearing. Before adopting the budget ordinance, the governing board must hold a public hearing at which time any persons who wish to be heard on the budget may appear.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS would require additional specific information to be included in the budget officer's budget message, including all proposed changes in tax rates and fees.

For local governments currently on the Unit Assistance List and governments that came off the Unit Assistance List in the prior fiscal year, the PCS would do the following:

- Require the governing board of any unit of local government to hold two public hearings on the budget. One of the two public hearings must provide the public with specific revenue information related to the local government's property tax and enterprise funds.
- Require the governing board, when the proposed budget ordinance raises the property tax rate from the previous fiscal year, to notify every affected property owner in the jurisdiction in writing by U.S. Mail at least 10 days prior to the date of the public hearing on the budget.
- Require the governing board, when the proposed budget ordinance raises the rate charged by a public enterprise fund or proposes a transfer of any amount from the general fund to the public enterprise fund, to notify every customer of record who is periodically billed, in writing by U.S. Mail at least 10

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# House 273 PCS

*Page 2*

days prior to the date of the public hearing on the budget. The notification may be included on the periodic billing.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would be effective July 1, 2024, and would apply to budgets adopted on or after that date.