

If any item of any appropriation bill passed under the provisions of this Section shall be held invalid upon any ground, such invalidity shall not affect the legality of the Bill or of any other item of such Bill or Bills.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid,* That the said foregoing Section hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution shall at the next ensuing general election being the presidential and congressional election, to be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, nineteen hundred and sixteen, be submitted to the legal and qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection in conformity with the directions contained in Article XIV of the Constitution of this State, and at the said election the vote on said proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be placed the following synopsis of said amendment under the caption of

“CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROVIDING
FOR A BUDGET.”

“This amendment provides that the Governor shall present to the Legislature soon after it is convened a Budget giving a complete plan of proposed expenditures and estimated revenues for the two succeeding fiscal years showing clearly any surplus or deficit in State funds. In these estimates he shall make provision for the interest and sinking funds of all State debts, for all salaries as fixed by law, and for the public schools as fixed by law. With regard to most other matters he may revise the estimates presented to him either by State officers or State-aided institutions. The Legislature may not increase the estimates presented by the Governor or pass any additional appropriation act except by a majority vote and must make provision by tax for such increase or additional appropriation. The Legislature may not alter in an appropriation act the provision made by law for the State debt, or for the judiciary, but may reduce all other items in the Governor’s estimates;” and the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and “Against the Constitutional Amendment,” as now provided by law, and immediately after said election due returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, and further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV of the Constitution.

Approved March 28th, 1916.