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March 10, 2020

Mary-Anne E. Dandles  
Clerk of the Assembly  
New York State Assembly  
Albany, NY 12248

Alejandra N. Paulino  
Secretary of the Senate  
New York State Senate  
Albany, New York 12247

Re: Senate No. 2974

Dear Ms. Paulino and Ms. Dandles:

In accordance with Article 19, section 1 of the Constitution, the Senate has requested my opinion as to the legal effect of the amendment proposed by the above-designated concurrent resolution upon the other provisions of the Constitution. Members of my staff have reviewed the relevant provisions.

This concurrent resolution proposes to amend sections 2 and 3 of Article 7 of the Constitution, in relation to content of Article VII bills.

The proposed amendment, if adopted, would diminish the Governor's responsibility for proposing a unified budget. Most fundamentally, the Governor would no longer have to propose a balanced budget. It also would eliminate the Governor's discretion to provide the Legislature with recommendations and information that he or she determines to be helpful or relevant.

In my opinion, the proposed amendment, if adopted, will have no further effect upon other provisions of the Constitution.

Sincerely,

  
LETITIA JAMES