

The Massachusetts State Budget Process

July-October: Agencies prepare spending plans for the next fiscal year. Agency requests are submitted to the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (A&F).



October-December: A&F examines agency requests to align them with the Governor's policy goals. Meanwhile, legislators begin to consider their budget "asks" for Ways & Means leadership.



January: Governor files their budget, "House 1."



February-March: Joint Ways & Means Committee holds regional public hearings on the Governor's budget proposal.



April-May: House Ways & Means releases its budget proposal. Representatives file budget amendments to increase appropriations or add new items. The budget is then debated on the House floor and a final House budget is adopted.



May: Senate Ways & Means releases their budget proposal. Senators file budget amendments to increase appropriations or add new items. The budget is debated on the Senate floor and a final Senate budget is adopted.



May-June: A Conference Committee (3 Representative; 3 Senators) reconciles the House and Senate versions of the budget.



June-July: The House and Senate pass the Conference Committee budget.



July: The Governor reviews and approves or vetoes the budget in part or in its entirety.



July-September: The legislature can override any of the Governor's vetoes with a two-thirds roll call vote in both chambers.

MASSACHUSETTS
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The state budget is based on the fiscal year calendar, which runs from July 1 through June 30. A fiscal year is named for the year in which the cycle ends.

The Governor's budget (known as "House 1") is not debated by the legislature. It represents the Governor's funding recommendations. The House and Senate take these recommendations into consideration when they create their respective budgets.