

VERMONT BUDGET PROCESS



FUN FACTS ABOUT THE VERMONT BUDGET

- VERMONT'S FISCAL YEAR (FY) IS JULY 1ST – JUNE 30TH
- VERMONT DOES NOT DEFICIT SPEND, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO LAW AGAINST IT
- VERMONT DOES ONE-YEAR BUDGETS
- THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENDS WHEN THE LEGISLATURE HAS FINISHED THE BUDGET, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING

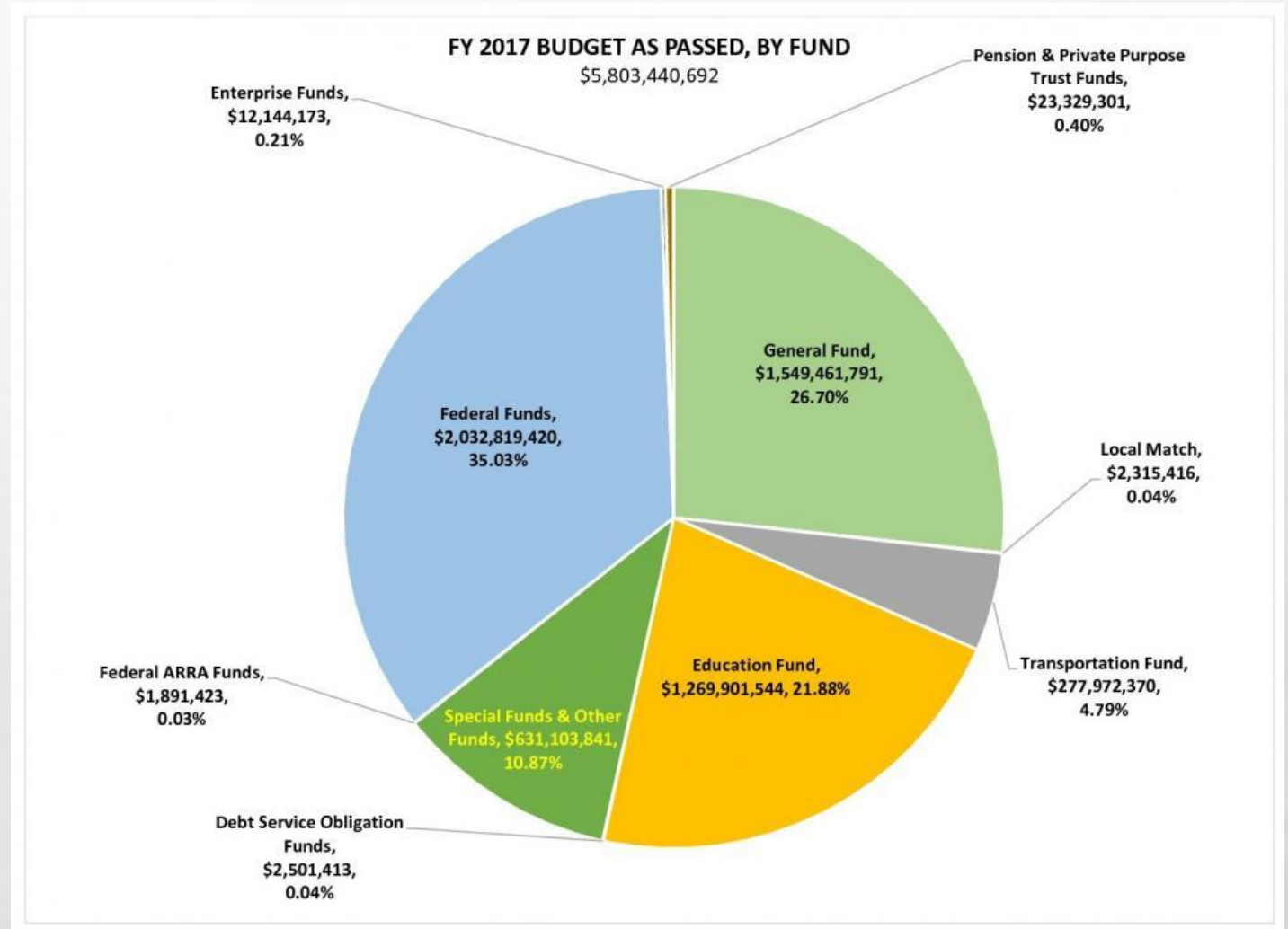
FUN FACTS ABOUT THE VERMONT BUDGET

- VERMONT HAS THREE MAIN FUNDS IN THE BUDGET:
 - GENERAL FUND – THE MAIN FUND THAT PAYS FOR MOST GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES
 - EDUCATION FUND – THE FUND THAT PAYS FOR K-12 EDUCATION - IT HAS SEVERAL REVENUE SOURCES, WHICH ARE NAMED IN STATUTE
 - TRANSPORTATION FUND – FUNDS TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS
- VERMONT ALSO HAS SEVERAL BUDGET BILLS:
 - THE “BIG BILL” OR APPROPRIATIONS BILL – THE MAIN FUNDING BILL FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES
 - THE CAPITAL BILL – MAJOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF STATE BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
 - THE “T-BILL” - PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH BUILDING AND MAINTAINING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE VERMONT BUDGET

- MANY DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUDGET CAN BE FOUND IN THE FOLLOWING PLACES, AS THE PROCESS GOES FORWARD:
 - HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WEBPAGE:
[HTTP://LEGISLATURE.VERMONT.GOV/COMMITTEE/DOCUMENT/2018/9/DATE](http://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2018/9/date)
 - SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WEBPAGE:
[HTTP://LEGISLATURE.VERMONT.GOV/COMMITTEE/DOCUMENT/2018/23/DATE](http://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2018/23/date)
 - JOINT FISCAL OFFICE WEBPAGE: [HTTP://WWW.LEG.STATE.VT.US/JFO/](http://www.leg.state.vt.us/jfo/)

FY2017 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

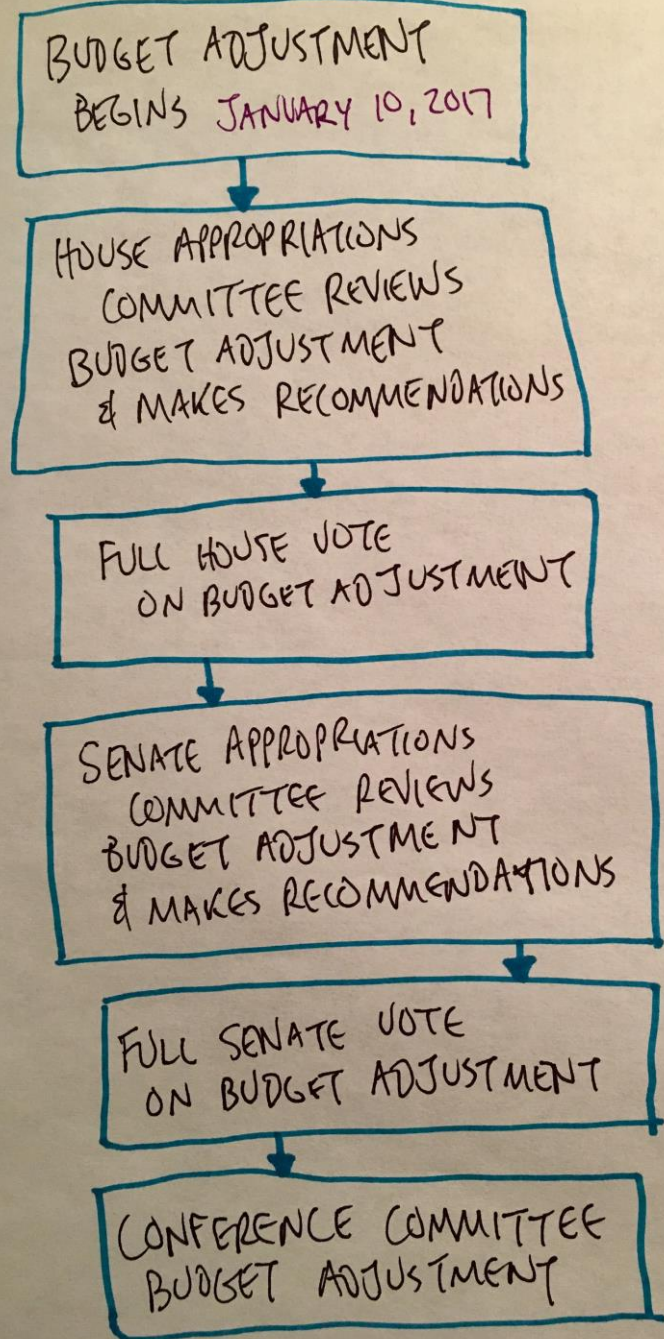


BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

- THIS IS FOR CURRENT BUDGET – FY2017
- BUDGET ADJUSTMENT (OR BAA) IS ADJUSTING THE BUDGET ALREADY PASSED TO ENSURE WE ARE IN BALANCE
- GOVERNOR HAS PROPOSED \$770,000 FOR NORTHERN UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MERGER
- VERMONT STATE COLLEGES HAS REQUESTED \$2 MILLION
- THIS PROCESS GOES VERY FAST!
- AFTER CONFERENCE COMMITTEE – BACK TO THE GOVERNOR!



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THE “BIG BILL”

- FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR – FY2018
- THIS PROCESS LASTS THROUGH THE ENTIRE LEGISLATIVE SESSION
- VERMONT LAW REQUIRES THAT THE GOVERNOR HAVE SOME WAY FOR THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BUDGETING PROCESS:

32 V.S.A. § 306(d)

THE GOVERNOR SHALL DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUDGET GOALS, AS WELL AS GENERAL PRIORITIZATION AND EVALUATION OF SPENDING AND REVENUE INITIATIVES.

THE “BIG BILL”

- **VERMONT HAS “PEOPLE’S BUDGET” LANGUAGE IN STATUTE:**

32 V.S.A. § 306A - **PURPOSE OF THE STATE BUDGET**

(A) PURPOSE OF THE STATE BUDGET. THE STATE BUDGET, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER I, ARTICLE 7 OF VERMONT'S CONSTITUTION, SHOULD "BE INSTITUTED FOR THE COMMON BENEFIT, PROTECTION, AND SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE, NATION, OR COMMUNITY.. ." THE STATE BUDGET SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF VERMONT IN A WAY THAT ADVANCES HUMAN DIGNITY AND EQUITY AND IN A MANNER THAT SUPPORTS THE POPULATION-LEVEL OUTCOMES SET FORTH IN 3 V.S.A. § 2311.

- **VERMONT ALSO HAS LANGUAGE REQUIRING A “CURRENT SERVICES” BUDGET**

32 V.S.A. § 306(a)(1)

(1) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH ANNUALLY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AS PART OF THE BUDGET REPORT A CURRENT SERVICES BUDGET, PROVIDING THE PUBLIC WITH AN ESTIMATE OF WHAT THE CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICES IS PROJECTED TO COST IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

THE “BIG BILL”



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FORMAT FOR BUDGET BILL

The two budget bills (BAA and Big Bill) are formatted with sections that are numerically ordered, beginning with 100. For example, the Introduction part of the bill starts with Sec. A. 100, the number sections start with Sec. B. 100, and the language sections start with Sec. E. 100. The appropriation section numbers in Part B relate to the language section numbers in Part E. For example, Sec. B. 100, Secretary of Administration, may have related language in Sec. E.100.

Part A – Introduction (A 100 – A XXX)

This part of the bill includes all of the introductory sections of the bill such as the Short Title, Purpose, Appropriations (boiler plate intent language) and definitions.

Part B – Appropriations (B 100 – B XXX)

This part of the bill includes all appropriation numbers for the “budget-year”, FY09 in the 2008 session. All language, including implementation language, is in Part E or F of this bill. In addition, budget-year one-time appropriations, “contingent” and/or “forward funding” sections are included in this part of the budget as well as “across the board” type appropriations reduction. In summary, any of funds are in Part B of the bill which is organized by functions of government:

B 100 – B 199	General Government
B 200 – B 299	Protection
B 300 – B 399	Human Services
B 400 – B 499	Labor
B 500 – B 599	K-12 Education
B 600 – B 699	Higher Education
B 700 – B 799	Natural Resources
B 800 – B 899	Commerce and Community Development
B 900 – B 999	Transportation
B 1000 – B 1099	Debt Service
B 1100 – B 1199	Misc – Onetime, Contingent
B 1200 – B 1299	Misc – Other

Part C – Budget Adjustment Appropriations (C 100 – C XXX)

This part of the budget includes all budget adjustment appropriation numbers for the current year. The current year one time and “waterfall” appropriations are in this part of the bill.

Part D – Receipts, Reversions, Transfers and Direct Applications & Other (D 100 – D XXX)

This part of the bill includes the sections entitled Departmental Receipts, Appropriation: Property Transfer Tax, Fund Transfers (Direct Application,) and Reversions.

Part E – Language (E 100 – E XXX)

This part of the bill includes session law language and amendments or additions to statute. A wide range of language can be included in this section such as implementation language, language pertaining to a current years’ appropriation, portions of language included from other bills, study language, and any other general language provisions.

Language subsections are designated with letter subsections such as (a), (b), (c) etc. as has been the practice in the budget. The order of language in this section intends to follow the order of the Part B appropriations, so that language that is related to a budget line item has a Part E section number that is same as the Part B section.

Part F – Other bills – (F 100 – F XXX)

If needed, this part of the bill can include the entirety of other bills that are incorporated into the budget bill.

Part G – Effective Dates - (G 100 – G XXX)

This part of the bill will include effective dates.

Part H+.....

New Parts of the can be added to the bill that may not immediately relate to appropriations section but flexibility to accommodate practical and political necessities may be needed...

THE "BIG BILL"

PUBLIC COMMENTS
ON THE BUDGET
(JUST FINISHING THIS
PERIOD)

GOVERNOR PRESENTS
HIS BUDGET TO
THE LEGISLATURE
JANUARY 24, 2017

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
REVIEWS THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS
PRESENT BUDGET
SECTIONS

POLICY COMMITTEES
PREPARE BUDGET
MEMOS

PUBLIC HEARINGS
FEBRUARY 13th
FEBRUARY 16th

ADVOCATES
HEARING
(NOT YET SCHEDULED)

**Opportunities
for YOUR
involvement**

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2018/9/Date>

- REP. CATHERINE TOLL, CHAIR
- REP. PETER J. FAGAN, VICE CHAIR
- REP. KATHLEEN C. KEENAN, RANKING MEMBER
- REP. MAUREEN DAKIN
- REP. MARTHA FELTUS
- REP. ROBERT HELM
- REP. MARY S. HOOPER
- REP. BERNARD JUSKIEWICZ
- REP. DIANE LANPHER
- REP. MATTHEW TRIEBER, CLERK
- REP. DAVID YACOVONE

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES POLICY COMMITTEES

- THE POLICY COMMITTEES WILL BE REVIEWING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET AND SETTING PRIORITIES
- EACH COMMITTEE WILL WRITE A MEMO TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
 - THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE WILL BE TALKING ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING
 - THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE COULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING
- YOU CAN TALK WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABOUT THE NEED FOR MORE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2018/10/Date>

REP. DAVID SHARPE, CHAIR

REP. DYLAN GIAMBATISTA

REP. ALBERT PEARCE, VICE CHAIR

REP. ADAM GRESHIN

REP. KATHRYN WEBB, RANKING MEMBER

REP. BEN W. JOSEPH

REP. SCOTT BECK

REP. EMILY LONG

REP. PETER CONLON, CLERK

REP. ALICE MILLER

REP. LAWRENCE CUPOLI

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HOUSE COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2018/11/Date>

- REP. WILLIAM BOTZOW II, CHAIR
- REP. MICHAEL MARCOTTE, VICE CHAIR
- REP. JEAN O'SULLIVAN, RANKING MEMBER
- REP. BOB FRENIER
- REP. MATT HILL
- REP. CHARLIE KIMBELL
- REP. PATRICIA MCCOY
- REP. LINDA K. MYERS
- REP. PAUL N. POIRIER
- REP. VALERIE A. STUART
- REP. LINDA SULLIVAN

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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARINGS

- ON FEBRUARY 13TH, 5 PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ACROSS THE STATE IN THE FOLLOWING TOWNS:
 - ST. JOHNSBURY
 - BELLOW FALLS
 - WILLISTON
 - RUTLAND
 - ST. ALBANS
- HEARINGS WILL BEGIN AT 6PM – EXACT LOCATIONS TBD
- YOU CAN TESTIFY AT THESE HEARINGS

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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARINGS & ADVOCATES HEARING

- ON FEBRUARY 16TH, A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD IN THE VERMONT STATEHOUSE, BEGINNING AT 6 PM
- YOU CAN TESTIFY AT THIS HEARING
- THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WILL ALSO SCHEDULE AN “ADVOCATES HEARING” DURING THE DAY – THIS HEARING IS FOR REGISTERED LOBBYISTS TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS
ON THE BUDGET
(JUST FINISHING THIS
PERIOD)

GOVERNOR PRESENTS
HIS BUDGET TO
THE LEGISLATURE
JANUARY 24, 2017

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
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FEBRUARY 13th
FEBRUARY 16th

ADVOCATES
HEARING
(NOT YET SCHEDULED)

THE "BIG BILL"

(REVIEW)

**Opportunities
for YOUR
involvement**



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THE "BIG BILL"

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE MAKES
RECOMMENDATIONS
ABOUT THE BUDGET
TO THE ENTIRE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
(MID-MARCH)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DEBATES THE BUDGET

- Ⓚ can make amendments during the debate
- Ⓚ debate is two days

HOUSE PASSES
THE BUDGET

- Ⓚ needs a majority of members present

HOUSE SENDS
ITS BUDGET
TO THE SENATE

- Ⓚ SENATE ALREADY HAS THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE VERMONT BUDGET

VOCABULARY:

- **THE BIG BILL** – THE BUDGET BILL OR APPROPRIATIONS BILL
- **UPS & DOWNS** – THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET AND THE LAST FISCAL YEAR'S BUDGET
- **THE WISH LIST OR REQUEST LIST** – THE ITEMS (INCREASES) THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET BUT HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY ADVOCACY GROUPS, THE PUBLIC, OR THE POLICY COMMITTEES
- **THE BIG BILL WEB REPORT** – AN EASY WAY TO SEE WHAT THE GOVERNOR, THE HOUSE, AND THE SENATE ARE PROPOSING FOR THE BUDGET...THIS IS AVAILABLE LATER IN THE PROCESS ON THE JOINT FISCAL OFFICE WEBSITE

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2018/23/Date>

- SEN. JANE KITCHEL, CHAIR
- SEN. ALICE W. NITKA, VICE CHAIR
- SEN. DICK SEARS JR.
- SEN. ROBERT STARR
- SEN. DICK MCCORMACK
- SEN. TIM ASHE
- SEN. RICHARD WESTMAN, CLERK

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THE "BIG BILL"



SENATE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
REVIEWS THE
GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
& THE HOUSE BUDGET

**Opportunities
for YOUR
involvement**

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS
PRESENT BUDGET
SECTIONS

POLICY COMMITTEES
PREPARE BUDGET
MEMOS

PUBLIC HEARINGS
(NOT YET SCHEDULED)

ADVOCATES HEARING
(NOT YET SCHEDULED)

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SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2018/24/Date>

- SEN. [PHILIP BARUTH](#), CHAIR
- SEN. [BECCA BALINT](#), VICE CHAIR
- SEN. [KEVIN MULLIN](#)
- SEN. [JOE BENNING](#)
- SEN. [CHRISTOPHER BRAY](#)
- SEN. [DEBBIE INGRAM](#)

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SENATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING & GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2018/32/Date>

- SEN. KEVIN MULLIN, CHAIR
- SEN. MICHAEL SIROTKIN, VICE CHAIR
- SEN. PHILIP BARUTH
- SEN. BECCA BALINT
- SEN. ALISON CLARKSON, CLERK

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SENATE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE MAKES
RECOMMENDATIONS
ABOUT THE BUDGET
TO THE ENTIRE
SENATE
(LATE APRIL (EARLY MAY))

SENATE DEBATES
THE BUDGET

- ④ can make amendments during the debate
- ④ debate is two days

SENATE PASSES
THE BUDGET

- ④ needs a majority of members present

SENATE SENDS
ITS BUDGET
BACK TO THE
HOUSE

COMMITTEE
OF
CONFERENCE

THE "BIG BILL"

COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

- THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE IS MADE UP OF:
 - 3 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
 - 3 MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
- THE HOUSE MEMBERS' JOB IS TO DEFEND THE HOUSE VERSION OF THE BUDGET
- THE SENATE MEMBERS' JOB IS TO DEFEND THE SENATE VERSION OF THE BUDGET
- THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE'S JOB IS TO FIND A COMPROMISE THAT WORKS FOR ALL
 - A MAJORITY OF BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE MEMBERS IS NEEDED TO PASS THE BUDGET OUT OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

BACK TO THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE

- THE BUDGET FIRST GOES BACK TO THE SENATE AFTER THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
- IT CANNOT BE AMENDED AFTER THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE PASSES IT – IT IS ONLY A YES OR NO VOTE – BUT IT CAN BE DEBATED
- A MAJORITY OF THE SENATE WILL PASS THE FINAL BUDGET TO THE HOUSE FOR A VOTE
- A MAJORITY OF THE HOUSE WILL PASS THE FINAL BUDGET AND END THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NOW, BACK TO THE GOVERNOR

- THE GOVERNOR HAS 3 CHOICES WHEN HE RECEIVES THE FINAL BUDGET:
 - SIGN THE BUDGET AND WE'RE DONE!
 - DO NOTHING FOR FIVE DAYS (BEGINNING THE DAY AFTER RECEIVING THE BUDGET, AND INCLUDING ALL CALENDAR DAYS EXCEPT SUNDAY) AND WE'RE DONE!
 - VETO THE BUDGET AND SEND IT BACK TO THE LEGISLATURE
 - A 2/3 VOTE OF MEMBERS PRESENT IN EACH BODY IS NEEDED TO OVER-RIDE A GOVERNOR'S VETO