Overview of the Budget Process in Virginia

In December of each year, the Governor introduces a proposed Budget Bill.

Delegates submit amendments to the budget bill to the House Appropriations Committee. These “budget amendments” are the changes that the particular delegate would like to see to the proposed budget.

Senators submit amendments to the budget bill to the Senate Finance Committee. These “budget amendments” are the changes that the particular senator would like to see to the proposed budget.

Budget Amendments are reviewed by the House Appropriations Committee and their 11 subcommittees. Visit the House Appropriations Committee website for more information on the subcommittees.

Budget Amendments are reviewed by the Senate Finance Committee and their 7 subcommittees. Visit the Senate Finance Committee website for more information on the subcommittees.

House Appropriations Committee reports their version of the Budget Bill.

Senate Finance Committee reports their version of the Budget Bill.
Senate votes on the Senate version of the Budget Bill.

House of Delegates votes on the House version of the Budget Bill.

Budget Bill from each body “crosses over” to the other body for their review

House of Delegates votes on the Senate version of the Budget Bill
(The House typically rejects the Senate version)

Senate votes on the House of Delegates’ version of the Budget Bill
(The Senate typically rejects the House version)

A Budget Conference Committee is appointed. Typically it is made up of six members of the House of Delegates and six Senators. They are called “conferees”. The conferees negotiate the final version of the Budget and present to House and Senate.

House of Delegates votes on Conference Committee Budget Bill.

Senate votes on Conference Committee Budget Bill.
Budget Bill is communicated to the Governor who has the opportunity to propose amendments to the Budget Bill.

House of Delegates votes on the final version of the Budget Bill, either accepting or rejecting amendments proposed by the Governor.

Senate votes on the final version of the Budget Bill, either accepting or rejecting amendments proposed by the Governor.

Governor signs the Budget Bill into law.

In order for the Governor’s proposed amendments to be included in the final budget, they must pass both the House of Delegates and the Senate.

Additional Resources

Virginia General Assembly [http://legis.state.va.us/](http://legis.state.va.us/)


Legislative Information Systems State Budget homepage [http://leg2.state.va.us/MoneyWeb.NSF/sb2012a](http://leg2.state.va.us/MoneyWeb.NSF/sb2012a)

Virginia Department of Planning and Budget