



# FLORIDA MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY COALITION

Understanding Florida Government in Relation to Mental Health

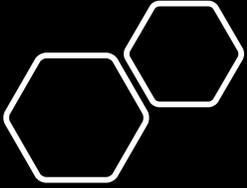
Part 3

The Florida Budget Process



# Different Aspects of the Budget Process

- THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND BUDGET (OPB)
- LONG RANGE PROJECTIONS (REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE)
  - AGENCY LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REQUESTS
  - GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS
    - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' BUDGET
      - SENATE'S BUDGET
- BUDGET CONFERENCE (MAKE UP AND PROCESS)
  - 72 - HOUR COOLING OFF PERIOD
    - BUDGET VOTES
  - GUBENATORIAL ACTION



Governor's Office of Policy and Budget  
(OPB)

- The Office of Policy and Budget (OPB) provides coordinated planning, policy development, budgeting and evaluation in support of the Governor, State agencies and State Legislature pursuant to authority under the Florida Statutes; as well as providing departmental planning, policy and budgetary analyses and recommendations for the Executive Office of the Governor.

The Revenue Estimating  
Conference

The Office of Economic and  
Demographic Research (EDR)

- The Revenue Estimating Conference is part of the EDR and is a research arm of the Legislature principally concerned with forecasting economic and social trends that affect policy making, revenues, and appropriations.



## Legislative Budget Requests (LBR)

- Following instructions issued jointly by the Governor's Office and the Legislature in July, state agencies begin developing long-range program plans and budget requests which lay out the programs and funding needs of each agency for the next fiscal year.

# Governor's Budget Recommendations

- The Governor's recommendations are based on state priorities and economic forecasts and reflect a balance between the Governor's policies and available revenues. The Governor's budget recommendations are typically submitted to the Legislature thirty days before the start of the legislative session each year. During years where the Governorship changes hands, it may take the new Governor a little extra time to analyze and propose a new budget.

# Legislative Budgets

- Following presentations of the Governor's recommended budget, the Legislature begins its review during committee meetings prior to the start of the legislative session.
- While considering the proposed budget, legislative committees hold public meetings with agency leaders and attended by lobbyists, special interest groups, and interested citizens.
- During the legislative session, the Florida House and Senate each pass a budget reflecting the priorities of its chamber's members. These budgets are referred to as general appropriations bills. These budgets also contain Appropriation Project Bills.
- The difference between these two budgets are what leads to the Budget Conference.

# Budget Conference



- Budget conference is comprised of conference committees that reflect the “regular” legislative committees (i.e. Health Care Appropriations, Transportation Appropriations, Educations Appropriations, etc.).
- Each conference committee is comprised of those members and committee chairs who sit on the “regular” legislative committees and are therefore aware of the differences in each chambers’ budget.
- The process consists of each chamber making an “offer” to the other, which then initiates the other chambers making a “counter-offer” at the next meeting, until all issues are closed out or time runs out and the remaining issues are “bumped” to the Full Appropriations Chairs.
- All issues not resolved at the Full Appropriations Chairs level are then “bumped” to the presiding officers.

## 72 – Hour Cooling Off Period

- Once the Budget Conference is concluded, the report of the conference becomes the General Appropriations Act (GAA).
- The budget is then printed and available to all members (and the public).
- The legislature cannot vote the budget out though until a 72 – hour “cooling off” period has occurred.



# Gubernatorial Action

- Once the GAA has been passed by both chambers, it is then sent to the Governor's office for his consideration.
  - The Governor can sign the GAA, allow it to become a law without his signature or veto it. The Governor also has line item veto power with regards to the budget. If the Governor chooses to veto the budget or certain parts of it, the Legislature can overturn said veto(s) the next time they meet by a two thirds vote of both chambers.
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