

Table 4-3: WHERE MAJOR APPROPRIATIONS BILLS ARE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATURE

State or other Jurisdiction	Assembly or House	Senate	Both Houses Simultaneously	Alternates between Assembly or House and Senate from Session to Session	Divided between Chambers (Multiple Bills)
Alabama	—	—	■	—	—
Alaska	—	—	■	—	—
Arizona	—	—	■	—	—
Arkansas	—	—	—	—	■
California	—	—	■	—	—
Colorado	—	—	—	■	—
Connecticut	■	—	—	—	—
Delaware	—	—	—	■	—
Florida	—	—	■	—	—
Georgia	■	—	—	—	—
Hawaii	—	—	■	—	—
Idaho	—	—	—	—	■
Illinois	—	—	—	—	■
Indiana	■*	—	—	—	—
Iowa	—	—	—	—	■
Kansas	—	—	■*	—	—
Kentucky	—	—	■	—	—
Louisiana	■	—	—	—	—
Maine	■*	—	—	—	—
Maryland	—	—	—	■	—
Massachusetts	■	—	—	—	—
Michigan	—	—	—	■*	■*
Minnesota	—	—	■	—	—
Mississippi	—	—	—	—	■
Missouri	■	—	—	—	—
Montana	■	—	—	—	—
Nebraska*	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	—	—	—	—	■
New Hampshire	■	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	—	—	■	—	—
New Mexico	■	—	—	—	—
New York	—	—	■	—	—
North Carolina	—	—	—	■	—
North Dakota	—	—	—	—	■
Ohio	—	—	—	—	—
Oklahoma	—	—	—	■*	■*
Oregon	—	—	—	—	■
Pennsylvania	■	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	■	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	■	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	—	—	—	■*	—
Tennessee	—	—	■	—	—
Texas	—	—	■	—	—
Utah	■	—	—	—	—
Vermont	■	—	—	—	—

Table 4-3: WHERE MAJOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL(S) ARE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATURE
(continued)

State or other Jurisdiction	Assembly or House	Senate	Both Houses Simultaneously	Alternates between Assembly or House and Senate from Session to Session	Divided between Chambers (Multiple Bills)
Virginia	—	—	■	—	—
Washington	—	—	—	■	—
West Virginia	—	—	■*	—	—
Wisconsin	—	—	—	■*	—
Wyoming	—	—	■	—	—
American Samoa (N/R)	—	—	—	—	—
District of Columbia* (N/R)	—	—	—	—	—
Guam*	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Mariana Islands	■	—	—	—	—
Puerto Rico	■	—	—	—	—
U.S. Virgin Islands* (N/R)	—	—	—	—	—
Total: States	15	0	16	9	10
Total: States and Territories	17	0	16	9	10

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, December 1997.

Key:

— = Not applicable

N/R = No response

***Notes:**

Indiana—Usually in the House; however, the 1997-1999 budget was the product of a special session and the budget bill was a Senate bill.

Kansas—In the past, bills were divided between the House and Senate on a biennial basis. Due to an informal agreement between the chairs of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee, each chamber considered one appropriations bill simultaneously during the 1997 session. This also is scheduled to occur in 1998.

Maine—The budget bill, by tradition, is a House paper and therefore originates in the House.

Michigan—Consideration or movement on the bills is divided between the two chambers and the house of origin alternates from year to year.

Nebraska—Unicameral Legislature.

Ohio—Bills are introduced in both houses, depending on the bill, but never in both at the same time.

Oklahoma—The Senate introduces appropriations bills for half the state agencies; the House introduces the other half. The following year the House introduces bills for the agencies that the Senate had introduced the previous year, etc.

South Dakota—Except for individual spending bills, which may be introduced in either house, major appropriations bills alternate between the House and Senate.

West Virginia—The two houses alternate years in enrolling the enacted budget bill.

Wisconsin—The Joint Committee on Finance determines whether the bill will be introduced as an Assembly or Senate bill. The bill usually alternates between houses.

District of Columbia—Unicameral Legislature.

Guam—Unicameral Legislature.

Northern Mariana Islands—Unicameral Legislature.

5. Deliberation on the Recommended Budget

Table 5-1: MAXIMUM TIME LEGISLATURE OR COMMITTEE HAS TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET

State or other Jurisdiction	Maximum Number of Weeks Legislature Has to Consider Budget (from time governor submits budget until the end of legislative session)	Maximum Number of Weeks Appropriations/Finance Committee Has to Consider the Budget
Alabama	15	N/A
Alaska	Varies*	*
Arizona	8-10*	6
Arkansas	24	12
California	20	20*
Colorado	*	*
Connecticut	Odd year-17; even year-13	Odd year-11; even year-7
Delaware	22	6
Florida	9*	15*
Georgia	Varies*	5-6
Hawaii	15	9
Idaho	No limit	No limit
Illinois	No requirement, 16-18	No requirement, 9-14
Indiana	16	House-9, Senate-5, Conf. Committee-2
Iowa	13-15*	*
Kansas	No limit	Varies*
Kentucky	8	5-6
Louisiana	*	4*
Maine	*	*
Maryland	10	5
Massachusetts	26	15-20
Michigan	33*	21*
Minnesota	15-16	15-16*
Mississippi	12-16*	11-15*
Missouri	Varies*	*
Montana	20	11*
Nebraska	Long session-21; Short session-13	Long session-16; Short session-9
Nevada	No limit	No limit
New Hampshire	16-17	Varies
New Jersey	20	16-18*
New Mexico	Odd year-8.6; Even year-4.3	Odd year-7.7; Even year-3.4
New York	10*	10*
North Carolina	No limit	No limit
North Dakota	Varies*	Varies*
Ohio	8-10	8-10
Oklahoma	16	12-14
Oregon	New governor-24; Incumbent-32	New governor-24; Incumbent-26
Pennsylvania	18	18
Rhode Island	No limit	No limit
South Carolina	22*	House-8; Senate-6

Table 5-1: MAXIMUM TIME LEGISLATURE OR COMMITTEE HAS TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET
(continued)

State or other Jurisdiction	Maximum Number of Weeks Legislature Has to Consider Budget (from time governor submits budget until the end of legislative session)	Maximum Number of Weeks Appropriations/Finance Committee Has to Consider the Budget
South Dakota	12	6-7
Tennessee	12-16*	3
Texas	*	No limit*
Utah	6	5
Vermont	No limit	House 8-10; Senate 10-12
Virginia	Even year-12; Odd year-10*	Even year-9; Odd year-7
Washington	*	*
West Virginia	No limit	No limit
Wisconsin	22*	18
Wyoming	12	10*
American Samoa (N/R)	—	—
District of Columbia (N/R)	—	—
Guam	No limit	No limit
Northern Mariana Islands	5 months*	5 months*
Puerto Rico	No limit	No limit
U.S. Virgin Islands (N/R)	—	—

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, December 1997.

Key:

- = Not available
- N/A = Not applicable
- N/R = No response

***Notes:**

Alaska—The budget is to be submitted December 15; the Legislature convenes on the second or third Monday in January; regular session is limited to 120 days. Theoretically, the fiscal committees have the entire session to consider the budget. Recent practice, however, is for the first body to pass the general appropriations bill for the operating budget by the 90th day of the session.

Arizona—The Legislature has a goal of enacting the budget by the 65th day of a 100-day session.

California—Fiscal committees have jurisdiction over budget bills from the time of introduction (January 10) until time of House (floor) action, which is usually early June. The conference committee exercises jurisdiction from time of floor action until the constitutional deadline for budget bill passage (June 15) or later, depending upon progress of budget negotiations.

Colorado—The Joint Budget Committee begins budget considerations in early or mid-November and introduces a budget bill several weeks before the end of the legislative session. This occurs in late March or early April. The appropriations committees and party caucuses review the budget bill for approximately two weeks.

Florida—Before the beginning of session, bills can be “pre-introduced” and committees do meet on an interim schedule. The appropriations committees hold intensive budget hearings beginning a month or two before the start of session. The 15-week timeframe for the committees includes these hearings.

Georgia—The legislature convenes on the second Monday in January; regular session is limited to 40 legislative days.

Iowa—The General Assembly has until the end of the session to consider the budget: even years—late April, odd years—early May. Technically, the fiscal committees have from the time the governor delivers the budget message until the end of session to consider the budget.

Kansas—Consideration of the “regular” appropriations bill is subject to a self-imposed schedule and varies accordingly. The budget, as a whole, typically is considered throughout the session and the wrap-up or omnibus bill is often the last or nearly the last bill to be enacted.

Louisiana—Typically, both House and Senate committees have approximately four weeks each in a regular session to consider the budget. The Legislature is limited to the length of the session.

Maine—In each first regular session (odd-numbered years), the Legislature has until mid-June. In 1997, the current services (C.S.) budget was enacted in late March. Through the early to mid-1990s, the C.S. budget was enacted in late

June (or later). Also in the first regular session, the Appropriations Committee receives the current services and supplemental budgets in January. Each must be finalized by mid-May (statutory adjournment).

Michigan—The Legislature may consider the budget from the time of submission until the beginning of the fiscal year (February to October). The Appropriations/Finance Committee may consider the budget from submission in February until July 4, the traditional ending of the budget process.

Minnesota—A conference committee can and does meet until day of adjournment in odd-numbered budget years.

Mississippi—The Legislature has 16 weeks in the first year of a four-year administration to consider the budget. In the second, third and fourth years, the Legislature has 12 weeks to consider it. The fiscal committee has 15 weeks in the first year of a four-year administration and 11 weeks in the second, third and fourth years.

Missouri—The governor must submit the budget within 30 days of convening the session (Const. Article IV, Section 24). The session convenes the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January (Article III, Section 20). No appropriations bill may be considered after 6:00 P.M. on the first Friday after the first Monday in May (Article III Section 25).

Montana—Eight weeks in joint subcommittee; three weeks additional to complete in House Appropriations Committee.

New Jersey—Sixteen to 18 weeks are available, but committees typically use 10 to 12 weeks for formal deliberation.

New York—This represents the time period from the beginning of the session to the start of the fiscal year (April 1).

North Dakota—The governor submits his proposed budget to the Legislative Assembly at its two- to three-day organizational session in December in even years. The Legislative Assembly goes into session the first Tuesday in January of odd years. The 1997 session completed its work on April 11, 1997 (98 calendar days). The first house usually has until the 31st legislative day to consider the budget. The second house usually has until the 48th legislative day to consider the budget. Conference committees made up of members from both houses often work on the budget up to the last legislative day.

South Carolina—State law provides that the executive budget must be presented to the General Assembly within five days after the beginning of each regular session, which begins the second Tuesday in January.

Tennessee—There is no limit. Usually 12 weeks in even years, and 16 weeks in odd years from legislative receipt of the budget to passage.

Texas—The regular session is limited to 140 calendar days, beginning the second Tuesday in January of odd-numbered years. The fiscal year begins on September 1. If the budget is not adopted in regular session, the governor calls a special session (30-day limit). The committees have no specific limit, but the House and Senate usually have passed their bills by the 15th week (105 days) to allow four or five weeks for the work of the conference committee and final passage of the general appropriations bill.

Virginia—The governor must pre-file the budget bill by December 20 of each year. In even-numbered years, the session runs 60 days. In odd years, it runs 30 days. The legislature has from December 20 until adjournment *sine die* to consider the budget.

Washington—There are limits on the regular session length—the budget must be adopted 30 days before the fiscal period.

Wisconsin—The Legislature has until June 30 or upon passage of the budget.

Wyoming—Hearings are held in one-week sessions. Usually one is held in December and one in January. Then, the committee finalizes the budget in a week to 10 days at the end of January.

Northern Mariana Islands—Under P.L. 3-68, the governor must submit a balanced budget to the Legislature no later than six months before the beginning of the new fiscal year. The Legislature is required to take final action on the proposed budget no later than 30 days before the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Table 5-2: PUBLIC INPUT DURING DELIBERATION ON THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET

State or other Jurisdiction	Procedures or Provisions for Public Input During Budget Deliberation
Alabama	None.
Alaska	Opportunities for public comment and testimony occur during House and Senate finance committee and subcommittee hearings.
Arizona	Testimony at appropriations committee hearings.
Arkansas	Legislative budget meetings are held in public when deliberating agency budget requests, executive recommendations and appropriations bills.
California	Public input is heard during legislative hearings.
Colorado	Joint Budget Committee sets aside time to receive public input.
Connecticut	Through the Joint Appropriations Committee. Joint Rules 6 and 15(b) set policy generally for public hearings. On the budget, public hearings generally are held in the evenings over a six- to eight-day period in early to mid-February.
Delaware	None.
Florida	Through public testimony during committee meetings.
Georgia	At the discretion of the chairs of each appropriation subcommittee.
Hawaii	Through public hearings in both the House and Senate.
Idaho	None.
Illinois	Through public and committee hearings.
Indiana	Public input usually is limited.
Iowa	No formal public hearing process.
Kansas	Committee and subcommittee deliberations are public meetings and public input may be allowed at the discretion of the chair. Public input is not allowed when the bill is being debated by a full chamber.
Kentucky	Budget chairs permit (planned or requested) public hearings.
Louisiana	Public hearings are held in the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.
Maine	The Appropriations Committee holds joint public hearings with each policy committee of the Legislature specifically to receive public input, including departmental testimony.
Maryland	Testimony may be taken at agency budget hearings.
Massachusetts	None. The public is invited to watch the proceedings of the full House during the budget debate, which usually lasts four to seven days. The Conference Committee proceedings—during which the budget compromise between the House and Senate finally is achieved—are closed proceedings.
Michigan	The budget is developed by subcommittees of the appropriation committees of the House and Senate. Both hold a series of meetings that are open to the public.
Minnesota	Through committee hearings.
Mississippi	No formal process.
Missouri	All bills, including appropriations, must have a public hearing by the appropriate committee in each house.
Montana	All committees provide for public input through normal hearing process.
Nebraska	No formal process. The Appropriations Committee holds hearings on all state agencies before making a budget recommendation. These hearings are open to all.
Nevada	Assembly and Senate budget committees hold hearings that allow for public input.
New Hampshire	The public may attend budget hearings.
New Jersey	The legislative budget committees generally hold public hearings on the governor's budget (by custom, not by law). Three to four joint hearings usually are held.

Table 5-2: PUBLIC INPUT DURING DELIBERATION ON THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET
(continued)

State or other Jurisdiction	Procedures or Provisions for Public Input During Budget Deliberation
New Mexico	Public comment may be taken during Legislative Finance Committee budget hearings (September through December) if the chair allows it.
New York	The executive budget is subject to a joint legislative hearing process.
North Carolina	Statute requires open meetings at which all comers have the right to be heard (§143-14).
North Dakota	Only at the request of the chair.
Ohio	During committee hearings in the House and Senate, but not in conference committee.
Oklahoma	Public input is taken at numerous committee hearings.
Oregon	Public testimony is taken during subcommittee deliberations.
Pennsylvania	Budget hearings are held for agency heads in the House and Senate in the spring. Public letters and other communication are welcome.
Rhode Island	The House and Senate hold departmental budget hearings.
South Carolina	Through budget subcommittee hearings but usually not during full committee meetings.
South Dakota	Public testimony.
Tennessee	Public testimony before the Senate and House finance and ways and means committees.
Texas	Public hearings are held by both the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.
Utah	None.
Vermont	Through conference committees that all are open.
Virginia	State law requires the money committees to hold regional public hearings on the proposed budget before the session convenes. Typically, five to six hearings are held around the state.
Washington	Not designated.
West Virginia	Budget hearings do not include presentations by the public or special interest groups.
Wisconsin	The Joint Committee on Finance holds numerous public hearings throughout the state on the budget. Public testimony is not permitted during voting sessions.
Wyoming	Limited.
American Samoa (N/R)	—
District of Columbia (N/R)	—
Guam	Public hearings are held after executive and agency budgets are received.
Northern Mariana Islands	If the governor's proposed budget includes a special interest group appropriation request, the Legislature may require such special interest group to be heard in a public hearing.
Puerto Rico	Before the budget is approved by the Assembly, both houses hold meetings to hear the opinions of the people.
U.S. Virgin Islands (N/R)	—

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, 1997.

Key:

N/R = No response

Table 5-3: Appropriations Standing Committees—Structure and Size**December 2008**

Introduction: Data in the table are for legislative sessions in 2008, and are for 2007 sessions for states that did not hold a regular session in 2008.

Jurisdiction	Appropriations or Budget Committees				Joint Appropriations or Budget Committees			
	Assembly or House		Senate		Assembly or House		Senate	
	No. of Members	% of Total	No. of Members	% of Total	No. of Members	% of Total	No. of Members	% of Total
Alabama*	15-C	14%	18-C	51%	—	—	—	—
Alaska	11-C	28	7-C	35	—	—	—	—
Arizona	17	42	11	37	8	13%	8	27%
Arkansas	—	—	—	—	28	28	28	80
California*	27	34	13	33	8	10	8	20
Colorado*	13	20	10	29	3	5	3	9
Connecticut	—	—	—	—	43	29	12	33
Delaware*	10	24	6	28	10	24	6	28
District of Columbia*	—	—	5-C	38	—	—	—	—
Florida*	35-C	29	17-C	43	—	—	—	—
Georgia*	73	41	33	59	—	—	—	—
Hawaii	19-C	37	12-C	48	—	—	—	—
Idaho	10	14	10	29	10	14	10	29
Illinois*	64	54	28	47	—	—	—	—
Indiana	25-C	25	12	24	—	—	—	—
Iowa	25	25	24	48	—	—	—	—
Kansas	23	18	13	33	—	—	—	—
Kentucky	29-C	29	18-C	47	—	—	—	—

Louisiana*	24	23	14	36	25	24	15	38
Maine	—	—	—	—	10*	7	3*	9
Maryland	26	18	15-C	32	—	—	—	—
Massachusetts	31-C	19	17-C	43	—	—	—	—
Michigan	30	27	17	45	—	—	—	—
Minnesota*	40	30	18	12	—	—	—	—
Mississippi	31	25	26	50	7	5	7	13
Missouri*	24	15	10	29	—	—	—	—
Montana	19	19	19	38	—	—	—	—
Nebraska*	—	—	9	18	—	—	—	—
Nevada*	14	33	7	33	—	—	—	—
New Hampshire	26-C	6	7	29	—	—	—	—
New Jersey*	12-C	15	14-C	35	3	4	3	7
New Mexico*	18	26	10-C	24	8	11	8	19
New York	34-C	23	33-C	53	—	—	—	—
North Carolina*	94	78	50	100	—	—	—	—
North Dakota	25	27	14	30	—	—	—	—
Ohio	31	31	13	39	—	—	—	—
Oklahoma	9-C	9	16	33	—	—	—	—
Oregon	—	—	—	—	9	15	12	40
Pennsylvania	35	17	26	52	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	16-C	21	10-C	26	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	25-C	20	23-C	50	—	—	—	—

South Dakota*	9	13	9	26	9	13	9	26
Tennessee*	28-C	28	11-C	33	10	10	7	21
Texas*	29	19	15-C	48	5	3	5	16
Utah*	—	—	—	—	10	13	10	34
Vermont*	10	7	7	23	5	4	5	17
Virginia*	24	24	16-C	40	—	—	—	—
Washington*	34	35	21-C	43	—	—	—	—
West Virginia	25-C	25	17-C	50	—	—	—	—
Wisconsin	—	—	—	—	8-C	8	8-C	24
Wyoming*	7	12	5	17	*	—	*	—
American Samoa	7	33	4	27	—	—	—	—
Guam*	—	—	11-C	52	—	—	—	—
Northern Mariana Islands	11-C	61	6-C	33	—	—	—	—
Puerto Rico	22-C	43	11-C	39	—	—	—	—
U.S. Virgin Islands*	—	—	7	47	—	—	—	—

Source: State legislatures' websites, reviewed in 2008.

Key:

— = Not applicable

C = Combined appropriations and revenue jurisdiction

***Notes:**

Alabama—Information in the chart is for the House Government Appropriations and the Senate Finance and Taxation/General Fund Committees. The House Education Appropriations Committee (15 members) is responsible for education appropriations. In the Senate, there are two other money committees: the Senate Finance and Taxation/Education Committee (13 members), and the Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability Committee (11 members).

California—Information in the chart is for the Assembly Budget Committee and the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. There is also an Assembly Appropriations Committee (17 members) and a Senate Appropriations Committee (15 members). The jurisdiction of the appropriations committees is less general than that of the budget committees. The joint Legislative Budget Committee appoints the Legislative Analyst.

Colorado—The joint committee identified in the table is the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). Its members sit on their respective appropriations committee but not on other standing committees. The JBC chair and vice chair are from separate chambers and preside in their respective appropriations committees. The Joint Budget Committee composes the state budget and is the principal deliberating body on the budget. The major responsibility of the appropriations committees is to review the fiscal impact of new legislation. Non-JBC members of the appropriations committees may serve on other standing committees.

Delaware—The Joint Finance Committee comprises the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. The only tasks of the Joint Finance Committee are to complete a budget bill and grant-in-aid bill.

District of Columbia—The Council is unicameral.

Florida—House information in the table is for the House Policy and Budget Council, which drafts and hears the House appropriations bill and tax bills. Committees within other House councils make policy and appropriations recommendations to the House Policy and Budget Council for the appropriations bill (as of 2008). The other councils all consider both policy and fiscal issues themselves and in the committees that are included under each council. Senate information in the table is for the Senate Fiscal Policy and Calendar Committee, whose 17 members include the members of seven issue-specific appropriations committees (not subcommittees) and the Finance and Tax Committee.

Georgia—Committees meet jointly for hearings only.

Illinois—A total of 64 members serve on the five House appropriations committees for K-12 education, higher education, general services, human services and public safety. Twenty-eight Senators serve on three appropriations committees. In both chambers, some members serve on more than one appropriations committee.

Louisiana—The House and Senate appropriations committees combine to form the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, which also includes the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee and the chair of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee or their designees. There is also a Joint Committee on Capital Outlay.

Maine—The Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs reviews the entire budget, including all revenue legislation that affects the budget.

Minnesota—The House Finance Committee (40 members) coordinates budget work. Fourteen Finance Divisions report to it on budget issues. The Finance Divisions have between 13 and 24 members each, and every member of the House is a member of at least one Finance Division. Some Finance Divisions combine policy and budget work. A few of the divisions have budget or policy subcommittees. Budget bills are considered by the House Ways and Means Committee (29 members), after the bills have passed the House Finance Committee. It acts as budget reconciliation committee. In 2008, 12 legislators were members of both Finance and Ways and Means. The Senate Finance Committee (18 members) reports bills directly to the floor of the Senate. It has 10 budget divisions, some of which have subdivisions and subcommittees, and which can include legislators who are not members of the Finance Committee. There is a separate Senate Capital Investment Committee; in the House, capital investment is a Finance Division of the House Finance Committee.

Missouri—Data in the table for the House represent the Committee on the Budget, which assigns bills to the six appropriations committees and reports to the floor bills recommended to it by the appropriations committees. In 2008, there were six appropriations committees, each with 10 members: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Education, General Administration, Health, Mental Health and Social Services, Public Safety and Corrections, and Transportation and Economic Development. The Committee on the Budget is made up of chairs and other members of the appropriations committees. Thirty-seven percent of House members serve on an appropriation committee.

Montana—Data are for the 2007 session; no regular session in 2008.

Nebraska—Unicameral Legislature.

Nevada—Data are for the 2007 session; no regular session in 2008. The Assembly Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee meet jointly for pre-session budget hearings, but there is no standing joint committee.

New Jersey—The New Jersey Assembly (the equivalent of the House of Representatives in other states) has separate Appropriations and Budget Committees. Each committee has 12 members. The chair of each is a member of the other committee but otherwise they have separate membership. The Appropriations Committee meets year round. The Budget Committee holds budget hearings in the spring. Both have joint budget and tax jurisdiction, but the Budget Committee deals with revenue increase proposals and legislation that is associated with the state budget. The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee combines the jurisdictions that the two Assembly committees hold. A Joint Budget Oversight Committee (three members from each chamber) has a variety of oversight responsibilities such as transfers of appropriations during the fiscal year, review of bond refinancing proposals and oversight responsibilities.

New Mexico—The joint committee identified in the table is the Legislative Finance Committee, an interim committee that proposes the state budget, has oversight functions, carries out performance reviews, and supervises the legislative fiscal staff. It does not meet during the legislative session.

North Carolina— Each chamber has an appropriations committee ("full committee") and seven subcommittees. The House and Senate subcommittees meet jointly for informational hearings at the beginning of session, but budget development occurs in subcommittees first in one chamber, then in the other. Lead on the budget moves from one chamber to the other each biennium. Every member of the House of Representatives is a member of a budget subcommittee or the revenue committee; every Senator is a member of a budget subcommittee.

South Dakota— House and Senate committees meet jointly for agency hearings and construction of the General Appropriations Act. Joint subcommittees may be appointed for special studies. Other appropriations bills are considered by the two chambers appropriations committees serially.

Tennessee—The joint committee identified in the table is the Joint Fiscal Review Committee, which oversees staff who write fiscal notes and carry out other fiscal studies, reviews certain state contracts, and has other fiscal responsibilities. It does not exercise jurisdiction over the budget. A distinctive feature is that its membership is elected by the two chambers, not appointed by leadership.

Texas—The joint committee identified in the table is the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). The board is a permanent joint committee that develops budget and policy recommendations for appropriations for all agencies of state government, as well as fiscal notes on proposed legislation. LBB usually does not meet during the session. It is made up of the lieutenant governor (presiding officer of the Senate), House speaker, and chairs of Senate Finance, Senate State Affairs, House Appropriations and House Ways and Means committees. LBB also conducts program and performance evaluations and reviews on state and local governments, and has authority under certain conditions to revise the budget in the interim.

Utah—The Joint Executive Appropriations Committee establishes policy guidelines for 10 joint appropriations committees. Executive Appropriations includes 10 members from each chamber, including majority and minority leaders. The individual joint committees range in size from eight to 15 members and among them include all legislators. Executive Appropriations hears committee recommendations and oversees preparation of the final appropriations legislation.

Vermont—The joint committee identified in the table is the Joint Fiscal Committee, which oversees the fiscal staff and has certain study and oversight functions. It can exercise budget review during the interim.

Virginia—Committees meet jointly for hearings only.

Washington—Data in the chart for the House are for the House Appropriations Committee. The House also has a separate Capital Budget Committee with 22 members. The functions are combined in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Wyoming— The House and Senate committees sit in joint sessions to review the executive budget, conduct hearings and compose the appropriations bill. Appropriations committees also meet jointly during the interim.

Guam—Unicameral Legislature.

U.S. Virgin Islands—Unicameral Legislature.

Table 5-5: COORDINATION BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES

State or other Jurisdiction	Joint Committee States	Joint Hearings		Other
		Always	Occasionally	
Alabama	—	—	■*	—
Alaska	—	—	■	—
Arizona	■	—	■*	—
Arkansas	■	—	—	—
California	—	—	—	■*
Colorado	■	—	—	—
Connecticut	■	—	—	—
Delaware	■	—	—	—
Florida	—	—	—	■*
Georgia	—	—	■	—
Hawaii	—	—	—	■*
Idaho	■	—	—	—
Illinois	—	—	—	■*
Indiana	—	—	■	—
Iowa	—	■	—	—
Kansas	—	—	—	■*
Kentucky	—	—	—	■*
Louisiana	■*	■*	—	—
Maine	■	■*	—	—
Maryland	—	—	■	—
Massachusetts	—	—	—	—
Michigan	—	—	■*	—
Minnesota	—	—	■	—
Mississippi	■	—	■	■*
Missouri	—	—	—	■*
Montana	—	■*	—	—
Nebraska	—	—	—	—
Nevada	—	—	■	■*
New Hampshire	—	—	■	—
New Jersey	—	—	■*	—
New Mexico	■	—	■	—
New York	—	■	—	—
North Carolina	■	—	■	—
North Dakota	—	—	■	—
Ohio	—	—	—	—
Oklahoma	—	—	■	—
Oregon	■	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	—	—	■	—
Rhode Island	—	—	■	—
South Carolina	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	—	—	■*	—
Tennessee	—	—	■	—
Texas	—	—	—	■*
Utah	■	—	—	—
Vermont	—	—	■	—

Table 5-5: COORDINATION BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES
(continued)

State or other Jurisdiction	Joint Committee States	Joint Hearings		Other
		Always	Occasionally	
Virginia	—	—	■	—
Washington	—	—	■	—
West Virginia	—	—	■	—
Wisconsin	■	—	—	—
Wyoming	—	—	—	■*
American Samoa (N/R)	—	—	—	—
D. C. N/R	—	—	—	—
Guam	—	—	—	—
Northern Mariana Islands	—	—	■	■*
Puerto Rico	—	■	—	—
U.S. Virgin Islands (N/R)	—	—	—	—
Total: States	14	5	24	11
Total: States and Territories	14	6	25	12

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, December 1997.

Key:

- = Not applicable
N/R = No response

***Notes:**

Alabama—Joint budget hearings are conducted before session, usually up to four weeks. Joint hearings during sessions are infrequent.

Arizona—All but approximately eight budgets are heard jointly.

California—Committees are not coordinated.

Florida—Both houses communicate frequently to develop a continuation budget, identify nonrecurring issues, develop budget instructions, and discuss some special projects.

Hawaii—Schedules are coordinated and use common grant-in-aid form, and worksheets are used.

Illinois—Partisan staff appropriations directors work together.

Kansas—Committees share staff and coordinate schedules.

Kentucky—Committees share staff, coordinate schedules and use common records.

Louisiana—The Joint Legislative Budget Committee conducts hearings before session, but there are also individual House and Senate appropriations committees that conduct joint hearings during the session.

Maine—Hearings are held jointly with policy committees.

Michigan—The committees meet jointly in February to receive the Executive Budget. One joint subcommittee of the two appropriations committees deals with capital outlay.

Mississippi—Members of each money committee serve on the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, which prepares budget recommendations.

Missouri—Committees are not coordinated.

Montana—Joint hearings are held at the subcommittee level.

Nevada—Committees meet jointly after deliberations to work out differences.

New Jersey—Senate and Assembly committees work independently, but public hearings and revenue forecast meetings usually are held jointly. The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Appropriations Committee conduct an independent review of the governor's budget recommendations and each committee reports an annual appropriations bill. Differences between bills are reconciled by amendment or substitute bill after the committees have completed the review. A Joint Budget Oversight Committee (six members) is established in Joint Rules to approve transfers of appropriations during the fiscal year and other responsibilities as required by law or rule.

South Dakota—House and Senate committees meet jointly for agency hearings and construction of the General Appropriations Act.

Texas—Substantial coordination is obtained through the staff budget recommendation process of the Legislative Budget Board before the session that produces the appropriations bill that is introduced in each house. Membership of the board includes the lieutenant governor (presiding officer of the Senate), House speaker, and chairs of Senate Finance, Senate State Affairs, House Appropriations and House Ways and Means committees. The board usually does not meet during the session.

Wyoming—Appropriations committees meet jointly during the interim.

Northern Mariana Islands—The lower house initiates the appropriations bill, after consultation with the executive branch through committee meetings and/or public hearings. The Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs conducts its own budget deliberation and proposes amendments to the appropriations bill that is transmitted from the lower house.

Table 5-9: CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS BILL(S)

(continued)

State or other Jurisdiction	Free Conference †	Limited Conference †	Bills Rarely or Never Go to Conference	Size		Are All Conferees Also on Appropriations Committee?	
				H	S	Yes	No
Alabama	■*	—	—	3	3	—	■
Alaska	—	■	—	3	3	■	—
Arizona	—	—	■	—	—	—	—
Arkansas	—	—	■	—	—	—	—
California	—	■*	—	3	3	■*	—
Colorado	■*	—	—	3	3	■	—
Connecticut	—	—	■	—	—	—	—
Delaware	—	—	■	—	—	—	—
Florida	—	■*	—	Varies		—	■
Georgia	■	—	—	3	3	■	—
Hawaii	■	—	—	Varies		■	—
Idaho	—	—	■	—	—	—	—
Illinois	■*	—	—	5	5	—	■
Indiana	■	—	—	2	2	■	—
Iowa	■	—	—	5	5	■*	—
Kansas	—	■	—	3	3	■*	—
Kentucky	■*	■*	—	9	9	—	■
Louisiana	■	—	■	3	3	—	■
Maine	—	—	■	—	—	—	—
Maryland	—	■	—	3	3	■	—
Massachusetts	—	■	—	3	3	—	■
Michigan	—	■	—	3	3	■	—
Minnesota	■	—	—	5	5	■*	—
Mississippi	—	■	—	3	3	■	—
Missouri	—	■*	—	5	5	■	—
Montana	■	—	—	3	3	■	—
Nebraska*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	—	—	■*	—	—	—	—
New Hampshire	■	—	—	5	3	—	■
New Jersey	—	—	■	—	—	—	—
New Mexico	■*	—	—	3	3	■	—
New York	—	—	■	—	—	—	—
North Carolina	—	■	—	Varies		■	—
North Dakota	■	—	—	3	3	■	—
Ohio	—	■	—	3	3	—	■
Oklahoma	■	—	—	63	48	—	■
Oregon	—	—	■	—	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	■	—	—	3	3	■	—
Rhode Island	—	—	■	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	■*	■*	—	3	3	—	■
South Dakota	—	—	■	3	3	—	■
Tennessee	■*	—	—	Varies		—	■
Texas	—	■*	—	5	5	■	—
Utah	—	—	■	—	—	—	—
Vermont	■	—	—	3	3	■	—

Table 5-9: CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS BILL(S)
(continued)

State or other Jurisdiction	Free Conference †	Limited Conference †	Bills Rarely or Never Go to Conference	Size		Are All Conferees Also on Appropriations Committee?	
				H	S	Yes	No
Virginia	—	■	—	4	4	■	—
Washington	■*	■	—	3	3	—	■
West Virginia	■	—	—	Varies		■	—
Wisconsin	—	■	—	Varies		—	■
Wyoming	—	■	—	5	5	—	■
American Samoa (N/R)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
District of Columbia (N/R)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guam*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Mariana Islands	■	—	—	11	7	■	—
Puerto Rico	—	—	■	—	—	—	—
U.S. Virgin Islands (N/R)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total: States	21	18	14			22	15
Total: States and Territories	22	18	15			23	15

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, December 1997.

Key: † = Free Conference—The conference committee may take up any item.

† = Limited Conference—The conference committee is restricted to specific items.

— = Not applicable

N/R = No response

***Notes:**

Alabama—Conferees on the major appropriations bills are free to make any necessary alterations in the bill until all points of contention are resolved.

California—Conference's decision on each item cannot exceed the higher of the two houses. The total budget can exceed the higher of the houses. In a first conference committee, all conferees also are on the Appropriations Committee. However, if a second conference committee is called, members do not have to be on the Appropriations Committee.

Colorado—Free conferences are allowed provided permission is given by both houses. (Such permission has always been given.)

Florida—Conference committees generally are instructed to deliberate only on those issues that differ from House or Senate. As a rule, new issues are not available for conference committee action.

Illinois—A conference committee may propose whatever it deems necessary, subject to approval by both houses.

Iowa—In rare instances, a non-Appropriations Committee member may serve on a conference committee.

Kansas—On occasion, a non-Appropriations Committee member may serve on a conference committee.

Kentucky—A "limited" conference committee must precede a "free" conference committee. The former in its solution to the disagreement raised by the proposed amendment is restricted to either recommending that the chamber of origin accept the amendment or the second chamber recede from the amendment. A "free" conference committee must address the area of disagreement but has authority to resolve the dispute by adding to, deleting from, or otherwise changing the proposed amendment. However, a free conference committee shall not propose a new appropriation or any above the level originally set by either chamber.

Minnesota—All conferees serve on a budget division, but not necessarily the one for which the conference committee has been established.

Missouri—Conferees can confer only on differing positions in specific areas of the bill.

Nebraska—Unicameral Legislature.

Nevada—Full House and Senate money committees meet in a public forum to resolve differences, then budget bills are drafted.

New Mexico—Conference is "free" in practice; not specified by rule.

South Carolina—"Free" or "limited" is determined by the full legislature. If a "limited" conference committee is established, items must compromise somewhere between the Senate and House versions. If "free" powers are granted by the legislature, then any solution agreed to by House and Senate members may pass.

Tennessee—The conference committee has the authority to consider any amendment to the appropriations bill. However, it generally is limited to amendments passed by House and Senate Finance and Ways and Means committees.

Texas—By simple resolution, the conference committee may make whatever changes the resolution (adopted in both houses) authorizes.

Washington—Conference committee participants may develop an entirely new bill; however, with appropriations bills the final product is generally a selective merging of the Senate and House bills.

Guam—Unicameral Legislature.

6. Enactment of the Budget

Table 6-1: MINIMUM TIME THE LEGISLATURE MUST REVIEW THE BUDGET BEFORE VOTE

State or other Jurisdiction	Assembly or House Provision	Legal Authority	Senate	Legal Authority
Alabama	—	—	—	—
Alaska	Conference committee reports may not be voted on until at least 24 hours after the report is distributed to members.	Uniform Rule 42(c)	Conference committee reports may not be voted on until at least 24 hours after the report is distributed to members.	Uniform Rule 42(c)
Arizona	—	—	—	—
Arkansas	—	—	—	—
California	—	—	—	—
Colorado	—	—	—	—
Connecticut	All favorably reported bills wait two days with action possible on the third session day (assuming the rules are not suspended or the bill is not “emergency certified”).	JR 17(d)	All favorably reported bills wait two days with action possible on the third session day (assuming the rules are not suspended or the bill is not “emergency certified”).	JR 17(d)
Delaware	—	—	—	—
Florida	Constitution requires 72 hours for any general appropriations bill.	Article III, Sec. 19	Constitution requires 72 hours for any general appropriations bill.	Article III, Sec. 19
Georgia	The full House may not consider substitutions or amendments to the general appropriations bill until it has been printed and on the members’ desks for 24 hours.	Sec. 28-5-4	—	—
Hawaii	Constitution requires 48 hours	Article III, Section 15	Constitution requires 48 hours	Article III, Section 15
Idaho	—	—	—	—
Illinois	—	—	—	—
Indiana	—	—	—	—
Iowa	—	—	—	—
Kansas	Informal rule that committee report and accompanying explanatory material be provided to members at least 24 hours before floor debate.	—	Informal rule that committee report and accompanying explanatory material be provided to members at least 24 hours before floor debate.	—
Kentucky	Rules Committee may not post for passage fewer than five days after finally reported by Appropriations and Revenue Committee.	HR 42A	—	—

Table 6-1: MINIMUM TIME THE LEGISLATURE MUST REVIEW THE BUDGET BEFORE VOTE

State or other Jurisdiction	Assembly or House Provision	Legal Authority	Senate	Legal Authority
Louisiana	In regular session, final passage of the general appropriations bill shall not occur until no fewer than three legislative days have intervened after the bill has been ordered engrossed.	HR 8.15	The general appropriations bill shall not be considered for final passage until 24 hours after the distribution to each member of the Senate copies of each committee amendment adopted by the Senate to the general appropriations bill and a copy of the bill as it was introduced in the Senate.	SR 10.13 (c)
Maine	Each bill may not be passed until it has had "several readings." This rule can be waived under certain circumstances.	JR 406	Each bill may not be passed until it has had "several readings." This rule can be waived under certain circumstances.	JR 406
Maryland	—	—	—	—
Massachusetts	—	—	—	—
Michigan	An appropriations bill must be reported out of the appropriations committee for five days before being passed on the third reading. This rule can be suspended by a vote of the members; this is sometimes done.	HR 49	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	—	—
Mississippi	Conference reports must lie on the table one day before being considered, unless they were recommitted for further conference.	JR 40	Conference reports must lie on the table one day before being considered, unless they were recommitted for further conference.	JR 40
Missouri	Conference committee report must be distributed to members one legislative day before consideration.	HR 60	All bills reported to the Senate perfected shall lie over one day before a third reading.	SR 52
Montana	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	Unicameral Legislature—Constitution requires that all bills must be before the Legislature a minimum of seven days, including days of introduction and passage.	—	—	Art. III, Sec 11
Nevada	—	—	—	—
New Hampshire	There shall be a detailed briefing on the general budget bill presented to the House at least two days before final action is taken.	HR 48	Senate action on the floor of a report of the Committee on Finance or a Committee of Conference on either the general appropriations bill or the capital budget bill shall not be taken until said report has been available from the Senate Clerk 24 hours in advance, in written form.	SR 43
New Jersey	—	—	If the final bill originates in the Senate, one week must elapse following introduction and placement on the desks of all members.	SR 133

Table 6-1: MINIMUM TIME THE LEGISLATURE MUST REVIEW THE BUDGET BEFORE VOTE

State or other Jurisdiction	Assembly or House Provision	Legal Authority	Senate	Legal Authority
New Mexico	Rule requires the bill to be placed on the speaker's table for one calendar day (after the appropriate committee report is accepted) before final consideration by the House. The rule does not apply during the last eight legislative days of the session. This rule applies to all bills, including the budget.	HR 11-20-1	—	—
New York	—	—	—	—
North Carolina	—	—	—	—
North Dakota	—	—	—	—
Ohio	House requires three readings per bill and requires a two-day waiting period before a conference committee report may be voted upon.	Article II Sec. 15, part c and HR 63	Senate requires three readings per bill.	Article II Sec. 15, part c
Oklahoma	Any bill out of conference committee must sit on the members' desks for 24 hours before it can be taken up.	HR 22	The Senate generally follows the same practice as the House, although there is no formal Senate rule.	—
Oregon	—	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	10 days	HR	—	—
South Carolina	Appropriations bills have to be on members' desks at least three legislative days before second reading.	HR 5.10	In practice, an effort is made to allow members time to review bill and summary of proposed budget.	—
South Dakota	—	—	—	—
Tennessee	—	—	—	—
Texas	All conference committee reports must be printed and a copy furnished to each member at least 24 hours before action can be taken on the report by the House.	HR 13	All conference committee reports on the general appropriations bill must be reproduced and a copy thereof furnished to each member at least 48 hours before any action thereon, if convened in regular session, and 24 hours, if convened in special session.	SR 12
Utah	Each legislator shall receive a copy of the general appropriations bill, any supplemental appropriations bill, and the school finance bill by calendared floor time on the 43 rd day of the annual general session.	JR 19.05	Each legislator shall receive a copy of the general appropriations bill, any supplemental appropriations bill, and the school finance bill by calendared floor time on the 43 rd day of the annual general session.	JR 19.05
Vermont	All bills must go through "notice calendar" and three readings, which is two to three days total.	HR 32	All bills must go through "notice calendar" and three readings, which is two to three days total.	SR 33 & 34

Table 6-1: MINIMUM TIME THE LEGISLATURE MUST REVIEW THE BUDGET BEFORE VOTE

State or other Jurisdiction	Assembly or House Provision	Legal Authority	Senate	Legal Authority
Virginia	Conference reports must be on members' desks on a date specified in the procedural resolution. Dates for considering the reports also are specified, and allow two days between reports and a vote.	JR 12	Conference reports must be on members' desks on a date specified in the procedural resolution. Dates for considering the reports also are specified, and allow two days between reports and a vote.	JR 12
Washington	—	—	—	—
West Virginia	Both houses try to have copies of the budget bill conference report available up to 24 hours before the vote.	—	Both houses try to have copies of the budget bill conference report available up to 24 hours before the vote.	—
Wisconsin	All bills shall receive a reading on each of three separate and nonconsecutive days.	AR 40	Each bill shall not receive two readings on the same day.	SR 35
Wyoming	—	—	—	—
American Samoa (N/R)	—	—	—	—
District of Columbia (N/R)	—	—	—	—
Guam	Unicameral Legislature—No provisions.			—
Northern Mariana Islands	No later than 30 days before the beginning of the fiscal year, the Legislature shall take final action upon the proposed budget by enacting and transmitting to the governor all the annual appropriation acts.	By inference, under P.L. 3-68, or 1 CMC 7201(f)	No later than 30 days before the beginning of the fiscal year, the Legislature shall take final action upon the proposed budget by enacting and transmitting to the governor all of the annual appropriation acts.	By inference, under P.L. 3-68, or 1 CMC 7201(f)
Puerto Rico	—	—	—	—
U.S. Virgin Islands (N/R)	—	—	—	—

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, December 1997.

Key:

HR = House Rule

AR = Assembly Rule

SR = Senate Rule

CMC = Commonwealth Code (Northern Mariana Islands)

N/R = No response

— = Not applicable