Wisconsin Executive Budget Bills, 1931–2025

LRB REPORTS • May 2026, Volume 10, Number 3

© 2026 Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau
One East Main Street, Suite 200, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb • 608-504-5801

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.
To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/ or send a letter to
Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

Wisconsin's biennial budget bill is easily the most significant piece of legislation that is enacted during the entire legislative session. This is the case for two reasons. First, the biennial budget bill appropriates almost all dollars that will be expended by state government during the two fiscal years covered by the bill. These dollars mostly consist of state taxes and revenues, program and license fees, and federal moneys allocated to Wisconsin. In 2025 Wisconsin Act 15, the state budget act for the 2025–27 fiscal biennium, the legislature authorized the expenditure of over $111 billion in total state government spending from all revenue sources. Second, the biennial budget bill contains most of the governor's public policy agenda for the entire legislative session. The biennial budget bill is generally considered the one bill that "must pass" in order to sufficiently fund state government operations and programs during the fiscal years covered in the bill. As such, there is a strong incentive for the governor and legislators to include in the biennial budget bill the major public policy items they support. The state budget process is therefore unequaled in its significance for the operations of state government and for its effects on the people of Wisconsin.

The provision for a biennial executive budget bill was created by Chapter 97, Laws of 1929, and it has applied to all legislative sessions since 1931. Prior to that time, the governor was not responsible for submitting an executive budget bill to the legislature; individual bills were introduced for each department. Early biennial budget bills focused on general agency appropriations and the revenue measures necessary to provide for them. Major policy changes were introduced separately. However, over the years, budget bills have evolved into major policy documents, and since the advent of program budgeting in the early 1960s, governors have usually submitted single omnibus budget bills that contain both program and fiscal proposals.

This publication discusses a few significant features of Wisconsin's biennial budget before summarizing the actual steps in the budget-making process. Next, it describes the procedures for budget adjustment and review. Finally, the publication includes a table outlining budget legislation considered and passed by the legislature from 1931 to the present.

Core principles of the state budget process

There are four core principles to the state budget process in Wisconsin. First, the state budget is a biennial budget, covering two fiscal years of state government operations and programs, with each fiscal year beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. Many states have a "drop-dead" date by which a new state budget must be enacted in order for state government to continue to operate. Wisconsin does not have such a deadline. In Wisconsin, if a new state budget is not enacted by June 30 of the odd-numbered year, state

government continues to operate and its programs are funded but only at the prior year's appropriation amounts. The governor and the legislature strive to enact the state budget bill before July 1 of the odd-numbered year, but there is little short-term fiscal impact if that deadline is not met.

Second, Wisconsin uses what is known as "program budgeting," which means that executive branch state agencies are assigned to different functional areas and, generally, lump-sum appropriations are made to the agencies to fund the programs. The biennial budget bill therefore lists the overall amounts appropriated for agency operations and programs but does not contain the expenditure details that one might find in a state that uses a "line-item" budget, in which each agency expenditure is specifically budgeted by line in the bill. This level of detail is not found in the biennial budget bill in Wisconsin; instead, it appears in accompanying budget documents, which are not law but which do capture the intentions of the governor and the legislature in budget deliberations. Consequently, the portion of the biennial budget bill that sets the expenditure levels of state operations and programs is roughly 200 pages in length, which is typically 10 to 20 percent of the total number of pages of recent biennial budget bills.

Third, the Wisconsin Constitution requires that the legislature "provide for an annual tax sufficient to defray the estimated expenses of the state for each year."[1] What this means in practice is that Wisconsin has a balanced-budget requirement: state expenditures must equal revenues received by the state. Generally speaking, at each stage of the budget process in which different versions of the budget are formulated and considered, each version of the budget must be balanced by having proposed state expenditures in any fiscal year be less than or equal to anticipated state revenues. This is a real constraint on state budgeting, one that is not found at the federal level.

Finally, the Wisconsin Constitution grants the governor partial veto power over appropriation bills. This partial veto power allows the governor to reduce amounts appropriated to state agencies for their operations and programs by writing in a lower amount and allows the governor, with limitations, to veto specific words and digits within newly created statutory text in appropriation bills.[2] The governor can thus significantly alter the legislature's budget actions. While this power has been curtailed by amendments to the constitution, the governor can still reduce all state expenditures, or the expenditures of any specific state agency, with the stroke of a pen, subject only to an override of his or her actions by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature—an event that last occurred in 1985.

1. Wis. Const. art. VIII, § 5.

2. See Richard A. Champagne, Staci Duros, and Madeline Kasper, "The Wisconsin Governor's Partial Veto after *Bartlett v. Evers*," *Reading the Constitution*, vol. 5, no. 3 (Legislative Reference Bureau, July 2020).

Biennial budget process

The usual budget process encompasses four main steps in which budget proposals are (1) developed by the governor with input from state agencies; (2) submitted to the legislature in bill form; (3) acted upon by the legislature; and (4) signed or vetoed, in whole or part, by the governor. In practice, the process involves complex maneuvers that generate significant debate and negotiation.[3]

Budget development. Agencies formally begin action on their biennial budget requests in June of the even-numbered year after receiving instructions from the State Budget Office (SBO) in the Department of Administration. Those agencies that have complex budgets or are planning major program changes will begin drafting their requests even earlier. These drafts are usually prepared by attorneys at the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB). The budget instructions include the prescribed format for requests along with budget directives from the governor, such as limitations on or reductions of appropriation requests.

Agencies submit their requests to the SBO and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) by September 15 of the even-numbered year. By November 20, the secretary of administration submits the requests to the governor (or governor-elect) and each member of the incoming legislature. In mid-December, the LFB publishes a summary of agency requests for distribution to the legislature.

The Department of Revenue also prepares general fund revenue estimates by the November 20 deadline. These reports cover actual and estimated revenues for each year of the biennium. In January, the LFB prepares an additional, independent estimate of general fund revenues for the legislature.

During the closing days of the even-numbered year, the governor considers the recommendations of the SBO analysts and develops a biennial budget that incorporates the desired fiscal policies and program levels for the next two years. When developing the budget, the governor may consult with many individuals, including the secretary of administration, the state budget director and SBO analysts, the secretary of revenue and revenue analysts, the heads of executive branch agencies, and legislators.

The governor's budget bill. When the governor's budget decisions are finalized, attorneys at the LRB draft the statutory changes needed to implement them, creating the governor's budget bill. The biennial budget bill is the most complex piece of legislation introduced in a session, and recent versions have run well over 1,000 pages. The 2025 budget bill was 1,917 pages.

By statute, the governor must deliver the biennial budget message to the legislature on or before the last Tuesday in January of the odd-numbered year. The Tuesday deadline was enacted in Chapter 333, Laws of 1973; previously, the date had been February 1 of

3. For a more detailed summary of the state budget process, see Liz Barton, Becky Hannah, Bob Lang, and Mai Lor, "State Budget Process," *Informational Paper* 80 (Legislative Fiscal Bureau, January 2025).

the odd-numbered year. If the governor so requests, the legislature may pass a joint resolution that allows later submission of the biennial budget message, the executive budget bill, and the accompanying reports. This type of extension is now very common, having been authorized in all 19 of the most recent legislative sessions covered in this publication. The latest date of introduction was March 3, 1971.

The law also requires the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) to introduce the executive budget bill without change in one of the houses. Transmission of the bill by the governor to the legislature must occur immediately after delivery of the budget message. The budget bill is then referred to the JCF.

The format for budget bills can vary according to the wishes of a particular governor. The practice is almost always to submit one biennial budget proposal, but Governor Tommy G. Thompson recommended separate budget bills for revenue, transportation, natural resources, and the capital budget in 1987 and for natural resources and transportation in 1989. In both sessions, the JCF combined the separate bills along with JCF modifications into substitute amendments. In 1995, Governor Thompson submitted his recommendations for the transportation budget after the biennial budget bill was introduced. The legislature introduced and passed the transportation budget as a separate bill. Additionally, budget bills may be introduced as two identical bills (known as companion bills) in both houses of the legislature, as was the case in the 1997, 1999, 2001, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023, and 2025 sessions.

Joint Committee on Finance. The JCF has the primary responsibility for committee consideration of budget bills. Since the 1911 session, the JCF has had the authority to receive all bills containing provisions for appropriations, revenue, and taxation. The JCF begins its consideration of the budget with initial overview briefings by the LFB followed by public hearings on the governor's proposed budget. A hearing is then scheduled for each agency's budget proposal, and agency personnel are invited to appear. This gives the JCF members an opportunity to question each agency head about the effects of the budget proposals.

The length of each hearing depends on the size of the agency and the complexity of the proposals affecting it. In addition, the JCF may hold hearings at different locations around the state to receive testimony from the general public. Individuals and interest groups may also testify at these hearings. For the 2025 budget, the JCF held public hearings in Hayward, Kaukauna, Wausau, and West Allis. At the close of its public hearings, which take several weeks, the JCF meets in executive session to decide what action it will recommend. Public testimony is not taken during executive sessions, but agency heads may be asked to respond to JCF questions.

The JCF uses various procedures for breaking the budget into workable portions for discussion and action. In some cases, the JCF may use "issue discussion groups," which are more informal than subcommittees, to study sections of the budget in greater detail. In

recent sessions, with the cooperation of leadership in both houses, the JCF has removed some unrelated policy items that the governor submitted as part of the budget. For example, the substitute amendment adopted by the JCF to replace Governor Evers's 2025 budget bill contained 1,496 fewer pages than the original bill. The enacted budget, 2025 Wisconsin Act 15, contained 195 pages and was the third-shortest biennial budget in the last two decades; only the 2021 and 2023 budget acts were shorter, at 175 and 183 pages, respectively.

Legislative action. When the JCF completes its work on the budget, its recommendations are forwarded as a report to the legislative house in which the bill originated. Legislative leaders decide which house will first consider the budget bill. The JCF report usually takes the form of a substitute amendment, which is drafted by attorneys at the LRB working with the LFB. The bill is then debated, amended, passed, and forwarded to the second house where similar action is taken.

If the two houses do not agree on identical versions of the budget, one avenue for resolution is the establishment of a committee of conference, which includes representation from each house. The conference committee tries to reach an agreement on the differences between the versions passed by the senate and the assembly, and the conference report it produces cannot be amended in either house but must be accepted or rejected in its entirety. From the 1931 session to the 1969 session, the legislature used budget conference committees on only five occasions. Over the next few decades, the legislature appointed conference committees more frequently, particularly when each major party controlled one of the legislative houses. However, there has not been a conference committee on a biennial budget bill since 2009.

Another practice for narrowing the differences between the houses involves the use of simple amendments rather than a complete substitute amendment for the entire bill. Beginning in the 1977 session, the legislature began using omnibus amendments, known as "super amendments" or "caucus amendments," which are composed of numerous simple amendments combined to reach agreement. These types of amendments, however, have not been used in recent legislative sessions, other than for making technical corrections in the substitute amendment or adding minor items.

Governor's approval. When the houses have agreed to pass an identically worded budget bill, the proposal is prepared as an enrolled bill for the governor's signature. While the governor usually accepts the majority of the enrolled bill, the governor may reject separate parts within it using the partial veto power. The legislature may override a veto with a two-thirds vote in each house, but a veto override rarely happens and has not happened since the 1985 session.[4]

If the legislature fails to enact a new budget by July 1 of the odd-numbered year

4. See Richard A. Champagne and Madeline Kasper, "The Veto Override Process in Wisconsin," *Reading the Constitution,* vol. 8, no. 3 (Legislative Reference Bureau, March 2025).

when the previous biennial budget is due to expire, state law provides that the existing appropriations remain in effect until amended or eliminated by legislation so government can continue to operate. The earliest biennial budget adoption was the 1941–43 budget, which passed the legislature on March 13, 1941, and was published on April 18, 1941. The latest adoption was the 1971–73 budget, which passed on October 27, 1971, and was published on November 4, 1971.

Budget adjustments and reviews

The 1971 legislature enacted Chapter 125, Laws of 1971, to provide that, during even-numbered years, the governor could submit a "budget review" bill if the state's fiscal condition required changes in expenditures and revenues. This procedure was viewed as an alternative to annual budgeting. The legislature passed budget review bills for the 1971 to 1979 sessions, but displeasure with the process in both the legislature and the governor's office led to the repeal of the review bill mechanism in Chapter 27, Laws of 1981.

Since then, the legislature has frequently passed "budget adjustment" bills without any statutory requirement.[5] A budget adjustment bill affects state expenditures or revenues set by the biennial budget or a previous budget adjustment. In recent years, these bills have typically been introduced at the request of the governor and contain a relating clause that includes the words "state finances."[6]

Similar to budget review bills, budget adjustment bills have most commonly been introduced in even-numbered years to affect a biennial budget enacted in the prior odd-numbered year. In the 2003, 2009, and 2011 sessions, however, the legislature enacted budget adjustment bills at the beginning of the sessions (in the final months of the fiscal bienniums). The 2009 and 2011 budget adjustment bills were introduced to address budget shortfalls and promote economic development in response to the 2007–9 recession and subsequent recovery. The governor has not introduced a budget adjustment bill since 2011.

Beginning with the 1971 biennium, the legislature has passed budget review or budget adjustment bills in all but nine sessions, the exceptions being the 1999, 2005, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023, and 2025 sessions. Since that time, the legislature has considered 37 bills that proposed major changes in the existing biennial budget: 10 budget review bills, 26 budget adjustment bills, and 1 annual budget.

Subsequent to the budget review repeal, the only statutory requirement for passage of

5. Four budget adjustment acts, 2003 Wisconsin Act 1, 2007 Wisconsin Act 226, 2009 Wisconsin Act 2, and 2011 Wisconsin Act 109, were introduced in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 16.50 (7). That provision requires the secretary of administration to notify the governor and the legislature if the secretary projects a revenue shortfall beyond a specified threshold. Once notified, the governor must submit recommendations to the legislature for correcting this imbalance. If the legislature is not in a floorperiod at the time of the secretary's notification, the governor must call a special session to address the fiscal emergency. For additional details about this provision, see Dave Loppnow, "State General Fund Balanced Budget Requirements," *Informational Paper* 81 (Legislative Fiscal Bureau, January 2025).

6. A relating clause is an essential part of a bill's title that identifies the general subject matter of the legislation.

a bill affecting a biennial budget was created during the 1987 session. The legislature, at the request of Governor Thompson, included in 1987 Wisconsin Act 4 a provision for the passage of an "annual budget" in the second year of the session that would incorporate "any needed changes in appropriations or revenues." Although the legislature did pass an annual budget in 1988, the provision was allowed to sunset in the following session.

Budget history

The following table outlines budget legislation considered and passed by the legislature from 1931 to 2025. In that period, Wisconsin has completed 48 biennial budget cycles. ■

Executive budget bills, 1931–2025

Session	Bill type	Bill	Introduced	Reported from joint finance	Conference committee	Final passage		Published	Session law
						House of origin	Second house		
1931	Biennial budget	AB 107 [1]	1/30	3/4	Yes	4/2	4/2	4/27	Ch. 67
1933	Biennial budget	SB 64	1/27	3/24	No	3/31	4/13	5/22	Ch. 140
1935	Biennial budget	AB 17 [2]	1/18	4/25	Yes	9/17	9/18	9/30	Ch. 535
1937	Biennial budget	AB 74	1/27	3/23	No	5/11	5/12	5/29	Ch. 181
1939	Biennial budget	AB 194	2/3	4/14	No	5/9	5/19	6/10	Ch. 142
1941	Biennial budget	AB 35	1/16	2/19	No	3/5	3/13	4/18	Ch. 49
1943	Biennial budget	AB 61	2/2	3/18	No	3/31	4/15	5/15	Ch. 132
1945	Biennial budget	AB 1	1/18	3/16	No	4/11	4/26	6/12	Ch. 293
1947	Biennial budget	AB 198	2/13	5/28	No	6/11	6/19	6/30	Ch. 332
1949	Biennial budget	AB 24	1/20	5/3	No	5/13	5/20	6/29	Ch. 360
1951	Biennial budget	AB 174	2/2	4/4	No	4/18	4/25	6/12	Ch. 319
1953	Biennial budget	AB 139	1/27	2/24	No	3/18	4/1	6/13	Ch. 251
1955	Biennial budget	AB 73	2/1	4/14	No	4/28	5/5	6/27	Ch. 204
1957	Biennial budget	AB 77	1/31	5/2	No	5/14	5/16	6/29	Ch. 259
1959	Biennial budget	AB 106 [3]	2/4	4/16	Yes	6/23	6/23	6/30	Ch. 135
1961	Biennial budget	AB 111	2/2	4/27	No	5/10	5/22	6/30	Ch. 191
1963	Biennial budget	AB 255 [4]	2/19	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Biennial budget	SB 615	6/18	6/18 (withdrawn from comm.)	No	7/26	7/29	8/10	Ch. 224
1965	Biennial budget	SB 99 [5]	2/4	5/14	No	—	—	—	—
	Biennial budget	AB 903 [6]	6/29	6/29 (withdrawn from comm.)	Yes	7/22	7/22	7/30	Ch. 163
1967	Biennial budget	AB 99	1/31	4/28	No	5/12	6/7	6/24	Ch. 43

Executive budget bills, 1931–2025, continued

Session	Bill type	Bill	Introduced	Reported from joint finance	Conference committee	Final passage		Published	Session law
						House of origin	Second house		
1969	Biennial budget	SB 95 [7]	1/31	5/20	Yes	8/15	8/19	8/30	Ch. 154
1971	Biennial budget	AB 414 [8]	3/3	6/1	Yes	—	—	—	—
	Biennial budget	SB 805	10/8	10/8 (withdrawn from comm.)	No	10/26	10/27	11/4	Ch. 125
	Budget review	AB 1477 [9]	1/19/72	2/22/72	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget review	AB 1610 [10]	3/7/72	(no comm. referral)	No	3/10/72	3/10/72	3/30/72	Ch. 215
1973	Biennial budget	AB 300 [11]	2/7	5/1	Yes	7/26	7/24	8/4	Ch. 90
	Budget review	AB 1407 [12]	1/30/74	2/27/74	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget review	SB 905 [13]	3/19/74	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget review	Apr. 1974 SS SB 3 [14]	4/30/74	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget review	Apr. 1974 SS AB 1 [15]	4/29/74	5/1/74	Yes	6/12/74	6/12/74	6/28/74	Ch. 333
1975	Biennial budget	AB 222 [16]	1/29	5/6	Yes	7/15	7/11	7/30	Ch. 39
	Budget review	SB 755 [17]	1/29/76	2/25/76	Yes	3/25/76	3/24/76	5/4/76	Ch. 224
1977	Biennial budget	SB 77 [18]	1/25	5/10	No	6/15	6/13	6/29	Ch. 29
	Budget review	AB 1220 [19]	2/9/78	3/9/78	No	3/31/78	3/31/78	5/18/78	Ch. 418
1979	Biennial budget	SB 79 [20]	2/13	5/22	No	6/29	6/29	7/28	Ch. 34
	Budget review	AB 1180 [21]	2/5/80	3/13/80	No	4/2/80	4/2/80	4/29/80	Ch. 221
	Budget review	SB 615 [22]	3/25/80	3/25/80 (withdrawn from comm.)	—	—	—	—	—
1981	Biennial budget	AB 66 [23]	1/27	6/2	No	7/16	7/17	7/30	Ch. 20
	Budget adjustment	AB 818 [24]	10/6	11/3 (indefinite postponement recommended)	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget adjustment	Nov. 1981 SS AB 1 [25]	11/4	11/13 (withdrawn from comm.)	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget adjustment	Nov. 1981 SS SB 1 [26]	11/4	11/9	No	11/17	11/13	12/4	Ch. 93
	Budget adjustment	SB 783 [27]	2/18/82	3/9/82	Yes	4/23/82	4/23/82	4/30/82	Ch. 317
1983	Biennial budget	SB 83 [28]	2/8	5/26	No	6/24	6/23	7/1	Act 27
	Budget adjustment	SB 663 [29]	3/1/84	3/6/84	No	3/29/84	3/29/84	4/25/84	Act 212
1985	Biennial budget	AB 85 [30]	1/29	6/6	No	6/29	6/29	7/19	Act 29
	Budget adjustment	Jan. 1986 SS SB 1 [31]	1/27/86	1/29/86	Yes	2/1/86	1/31/86	2/7/86	Act 120
1987	Biennial budget	SB 100 [32]	2/17	6/11	No	7/2	7/2	7/31	Act 27
	Annual budget	AB 850 [33]	1/27/88	3/16/88	Yes	4/21/88	4/20/88	5/16/88	Act 399

Executive budget bills, 1931–2025, continued

Session	Bill type	Bill	Introduced	Reported from joint finance	Conference committee	Final passage: House of origin	Final passage: Second house	Published	Session law
1989	Biennial budget	SB 31[34]	2/2	6/14	Yes	6/30	6/30	8/8	Act 31
	Budget adjustment	SB 542[35]	3/20/90	3/21/90	No	3/22/90	3/21/90	5/10/90	Act 336
1991	Biennial budget	AB 91[36]	2/7	6/25	Yes	7/3	7/3	8/14	Act 39
	Budget adjustment	SB 483[37]	1/30/92	3/12/92	Yes	3/27/92	3/27/92	4/30/92	Act 269
1993	Biennial budget	SB 44[38]	2/4	6/29	Yes	7/16	7/16	8/11	Act 16
	Budget adjustment	SB 690	2/1/94	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget adjustment	SB 749[39]	2/23/94	3/4/94	Yes	—	—	—	—
	Budget adjustment	AB 1126[40]	2/9/94	—	Yes	3/25/94	3/25/94	5/9/94	Act 437
	Budget adjustment	AB 1180[41]	3/1/94	3/14/94	—	—	—	—	—
1995	Biennial budget	AB 150[42]	2/16	6/15	No	6/29	6/29	7/28	Act 27
	Transportation budget	AB 402[43]	5/24	5/30	—	—	—	—	—
	Transportation budget	AB 557[44]	9/12	10/3	Yes	11/14	11/16	12/20	Act 113
	Budget adjustment (state government operations revisions)[45]	SB 565[46]	2/21/96	3/26/96	No	3/28/96	3/27/96	4/29/96	Act 216
	Companion to SB 565	AB 935[47]	2/23/96	3/21/96	—	—	—	—	—
1997	Biennial budget	AB 100[48]	2/12	9/4	No	9/29	9/25	10/13	Act 27
	Companion to AB 100	SB 77	2/12	6/19	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget adjustment	AB 768[49]	2/3/98	5/6/98	No	5/6/98	5/7/98	6/16/98	Act 237
	Companion to AB 768	SB 436	2/3/98	—	—	—	—	—	—
1999	Biennial budget	AB 133[50]	2/16	6/25	Yes	10/6	10/6	10/28	Act 9
	Companion to AB 133	SB 45	2/16	6/29	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget adjustment	SB 357[51]	2/1/00	2/8/00	No	—	—	—	—
2001	Biennial budget	SB 55[52]	2/20	6/18	Yes	7/26	7/26	8/31	Act 16
	Companion to SB 55	AB 144	2/20	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget adjustment (deficit)	Jan. 2002 SS AB 1[53]	2/5/02	3/14/02	Yes	7/5/02	7/3/02	7/29/02	Act 109

Executive budget bills, 1931–2025, continued

Session	Bill type	Bill	Introduced	Reported from joint finance	Conference committee	Final passage		Published	Session law
						House of origin	Second house		
2003	Budget adjustment	Jan. 2003 SS SB 1[54]	1/30	2/18	No	2/20	2/20	2/28	Act 1
	Biennial budget	SB 44[55]	2/20	6/16	No	6/24	6/19	7/25	Act 33
2005	Biennial budget	AB 100[56]	2/9	6/17	No	7/5	6/30	7/26	Act 25
2007	Biennial budget	SB 40[57]	2/14	6/20	Yes	10/23	10/23	10/26	Act 20
	Biennial budget	Oct. 2007 SS SB 1[58]	10/15	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Transportation budget	Oct. 2007 SS SB 2[59]	10/15	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget adjustment	Mar. 2008 SS AB 1[60]	3/12/08	—	Yes	5/14/08	5/13/08	5/30/08	Act 226
2009	Budget adjustment	SB 62[61]	2/17	2/17	No	2/18	2/18	3/5	Act 2
	Biennial budget	AB 75[62]	2/17	6/8	Yes	6/26	6/25	6/29	Act 28
2011	Budget adjustment	Jan. 2011 SS AB 11[63]	2/15	2/17	Yes	3/10	3/9	first published 3/25; republished 6/28	Act 10
	Companion to Jan. 2011 SS AB 11	Jan. 2011 SS SB 11[64]	2/14	2/17	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget adjustment	Jan. 2011 SS SB 12[65]	3/31	—	No	4/5	4/5	4/7	Act 13
	Companion to Jan. 2011 SS SB 12	Jan. 2011 SS AB 13	4/1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Budget adjustment	AB 148[66]	5/25	5/27	No	6/8	6/14	6/29	Act 27
	Biennial budget	AB 40[67]	3/1	6/13	No	6/14	6/16	6/30	Act 32
	Companion to AB 40	SB 27[68]	3/1	6/14	—	—	—	—	—
2013	Biennial budget	AB 40[69]	2/20	6/14	No	6/18	6/21	7/1	Act 20
2015	Biennial budget	SB 21[70]	2/3	7/6	No	7/7	7/8	7/13	Act 55
	Companion to SB 21	AB 21[71]	2/3	7/7	—	—	—	—	—
2017	Biennial budget	AB 64[72]	2/8	9/11	No	9/13	9/15	9/22	Act 59
	Companion to AB 64	SB 30	2/8	9/13	—	—	—	—	—
2019	Biennial budget	AB 56[73]	2/28	6/20	No	6/25	6/26	7/4	Act 9
	Companion to AB 56	SB 59	2/28	6/19	—	—	—	—	—
2021	Biennial budget	AB 68[74]	2/16	6/28	No	6/29	6/30	7/9	Act 58
	Companion to AB 68	SB 111	2/16	6/25	—	—	—	—	—

Executive budget bills, 1931–2025, continued

Session	Bill type	Bill	Introduced	Reported from joint finance	Conference committee	Final passage: House of origin	Final passage: Second house	Published	Session law
2023	Biennial budget	SB 70 [75]	2/15	6/26	No	6/28	6/29	7/6	Act 19
	Companion to SB 70	AB 43	2/15	6/27	—	—	—	—	—
2025	Biennial budget	SB 45 [76]	2/18	7/1	No	7/2	7/2	7/3	Act 15
	Companion to SB 45	AB 50	2/18	7/1	—	—	—	—	—

Note: Before 1983, a bill that was enacted into law was called a "chapter" rather than an "act."

— not applicable; AA–assembly amendment; AB–assembly bill; AJR–assembly joint resolution; A. Sub.–assembly substitute amendment; Ch.–chapter; comm.–committee; Conf. Am.–conference amendment; Conf. Sub.–conference substitute amendment; SA–senate amendment; SB–senate bill; SJR–senate joint resolution; S. Sub.–senate substitute amendment; SS–special session.

1. The assembly passed the amended bill on Mar. 10. The senate concurred as amended by SA 1 and SA 4 on Mar. 19. The assembly nonconcurred in SA 4 on Mar. 25, and the senate refused to recede on Mar. 31. A conference committee was created. The committee reported on Apr. 2 and recommended that the senate recede from its position on SA 4. On Apr. 2, the senate adopted the report and the assembly concurred.

2. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 on May 10. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 on June 27. The assembly nonconcurred in S. Sub. 1 on Aug. 20, and the senate refused to recede. A conference committee was created and reported A. Sub. 2 on Sept. 14. The assembly adopted the report on Sept. 17, and the senate concurred on Sept. 18.

3. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 on Apr. 29. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 on May 19. The assembly nonconcurred in S. Sub. 1 on May 20, and the senate refused to recede. A conference committee was created and reported S. Sub. 2 on June 22. Both houses adopted the committee report on June 23.

4. On Mar. 12, the bill was withdrawn from the Joint Committee on Finance and rereferred to it. On May 22 and June 4, attempts to withdraw the bill failed. The bill was withdrawn from the Joint Committee on Finance on July 30 and indefinitely postponed.

5. The senate adopted S. Sub. 3 as amended on June 4. The assembly nonconcurred on June 10.

6. The assembly passed the amended bill on July 1. The senate concurred, with amendments, on July 8. The assembly nonconcurred in SA 1, SA 3, and SA 5 on July 9, and the senate adhered to its position. On July 22, a conference committee was created pursuant to AJR 112 and reported AA 1 to SA 1. The assembly receded from its position on SA 1 and SA 3 and adopted the report on July 22. The senate receded from its position on SA 5 and concurred on July 22.

7. The senate adopted S. Sub. 2 on June 20. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 on July 18. The senate nonconcurred in A. Sub. 1 and requested a conference committee on July 18. The conference committee reported on Aug. 12. The senate adopted the report on Aug. 15. The assembly concurred on Aug. 19.

8. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 on June 11. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 on June 29. The assembly nonconcurred on July 14. The senate adhered to its position and requested a conference committee. The committee failed to reach an agreement.

9. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 2 on Mar. 1. The senate nonconcurred on Mar. 2.

10. The assembly adopted AB 1610 as amended on Mar. 8. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 on Mar. 10. The assembly concurred on Mar. 10.

11. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 on May 10. The senate nonconcurred on May 17. The conference committee, created by SJR 67, reported S. Sub. 1 on July 11. The senate adopted the report on July 24. The assembly concurred on July 26.

12. The bill failed to pass the assembly pursuant to AJR 13 on Apr. 8, 1974.

13. The bill failed to pass the senate pursuant to AJR 13 on Apr. 1, 1974.

14. The bill was tabled on the day it was introduced and never considered.

15. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 on May 2. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 as amended by 87 senate amendments on May 22. The assembly nonconcurred in all senate amendments on June 12. A conference committee was created and reported on June 12. The senate adopted the report on June 12. The assembly concurred on June 12.

16. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 on May 21. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 on June 13. The assembly nonconcurred in S. Sub. 1 on June 19 and requested a conference committee. The conference committee reported on July 8. The senate adopted the report on July 11. The assembly concurred on July 15.

17. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 on Mar. 4. The assembly nonconcurred on Mar. 11. The conference committee, created by AJR 90, reported on Mar. 24. The assembly adopted the report on Mar. 24. The senate concurred on Mar. 25.

18. The senate adopted S. Sub. 2 on May 24. The assembly concurred in S. Sub. 2 as amended by AA 262 (an omnibus "super amendment") on June 13. The senate concurred on June 15.

19. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 on Mar. 20. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 1 and SA 49 (as amended) on Mar. 24. The assembly concurred in SA 1 to A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 17 and nonconcurred in SA 49 on Mar. 30. The senate concurred in AA 17 to SA 1 as amended by SA 1 and receded from its position on SA 49 on Mar. 31. The assembly concurred in SA 1 to AA 17 to SA 1 on Mar. 31.

20. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 on June 6. The assembly concurred in S. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 444 (as amended) and AA 445 on June 27.

The senate concurred in AA 444 as amended by SA 12, 13, and 14 and concurred in AA 445 on June 29. The assembly concurred on June 29.

21. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 2 on Mar. 26. The senate amended and concurred on Mar. 29. Subsequent action involved the adoption of numerous simple amendments offered in both houses. The senate and assembly concurred on A. Sub. 2 as amended on Apr. 2.

22. The senate tabled the bill on Mar. 28, and it failed to pass pursuant to AJR 1 on Apr. 3.

23. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 2 on June 30. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 2 as amended by SA 125 (an omnibus "super amendment") and SA 132 on July 8. The assembly concurred in SA 125 as amended by AA 2 and AA 18 and SA 132 on July 16. The senate concurred on July 17.

24. The assembly adjourned floorperiod IV while AB 818 was on the floor and took no final action on the bill. It failed to pass pursuant to SJR 1 on Apr. 2, 1982.

25. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 2 on Nov. 13. The senate nonconcurred on Nov. 13.

26. The senate passed Nov. 1981 SS SB 1 on Nov. 13. The assembly concurred in Nov. 1981 SS SB 1 as amended by AA 2 on Nov. 13. The senate concurred on Nov. 17.

27. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 on Mar. 17. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 2 on Apr. 22. The senate nonconcurred on Apr. 23 and requested a conference committee. The conference committee reported on Apr. 23. The assembly adopted the report on Apr. 23. The senate concurred on Apr. 23.

28. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 on June 3. The assembly concurred in S. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 4 and AA 9. The senate concurred in AA 4 as amended by SA 1 and AA 9 as amended by SA 1 on June 23. The assembly concurred in SA 1 to AA 4 as amended by AA 2 and AA 3 and SA 1 to AA 9. The senate concurred on June 24.

29. The senate passed the bill, with amendments, on Mar. 13. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 2 on Mar. 22. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 2. as amended by SA 3 and SA 6 on Mar. 29. The assembly concurred on Mar. 29.

30. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 on June 14. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 as amended by several senate amendments on June 23. The assembly concurred in the senate amendments as amended by several assembly amendments on June 28. The senate concurred in the assembly amendments and amended AA 23 to SA 137 on June 29. The assembly concurred on June 29.

31. The senate passed Jan. 1986 SS SB 1 as amended by SA 1 on Jan. 29. A conference committee was appointed pursuant to AJR 1 on Jan. 31. The assembly adopted the conference committee report on Jan. 31. The senate concurred on Feb. 1.

32. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 on June 18. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 on July 2. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 2 on July 2. The assembly concurred on July 2.

33. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 on Mar. 17. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 9 on Apr. 19. A conference committee was appointed pursuant to SJR 67 on Apr. 20. The committee reported Conf. Am. 1 (as amended) and five other amendments. The senate receded from its position on SA 9 and adopted the conference report on Apr. 20. The assembly concurred on Apr. 21.

34. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 1 on June 19. The assembly concurred in S. Sub. 1 as amended. A conference committee was appointed pursuant to SJR 50 on June 28 and June 29. The committee recommended the adoption of AA 1 and AA 2 (both as amended) to S. Sub. 1. The assembly adopted the conference report on June 30. The senate concurred on June 30.

35. The senate adopted SB 542 as amended by 48 senate amendments on Mar. 21. The assembly adopted the bill as amended by three assembly amendments on Mar. 21. The senate concurred on Mar. 22.

36. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by 10 assembly amendments on June 26. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 1 on July 2. A conference committee was appointed on July 2. The committee reported Conf. Am. 1 on July 3. The senate adopted the conference report on July 3. The assembly concurred on July 3.

37. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 as amended by four senate amendments on Mar. 13. The assembly concurred in S. Sub. 1 as amended by several assembly amendments on Mar. 24. A conference committee was appointed on Mar. 25. The committee reported 117 LRB draft amendments on Mar. 27. The assembly adopted the conference report on Mar. 27. The senate concurred on Mar. 27.

38. The senate adopted S. Sub. 2 as amended by SA 1 and SA 2 on June 30. The assembly did not take up the bill. A conference committee was appointed pursuant to AJR 70 on July 7. The committee reported Conf. Am. 1 on July 16. The assembly adopted the conference report on July 16. The senate concurred on July 16.

39. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 1 and SA 2 on Mar. 4. The assembly did not take up the bill. A conference committee was appointed pursuant to AJR 129 to reconcile differences related to SB 749, AB 1126 (see below), and ABs 1233 to 1247. The senate receded from its position on SB 749 as part of the conference report.

40. AB 1126 originally related to abolishing the property tax levy for school operations and was not introduced as a budget adjustment bill. It was reported by the Assembly Committee on Rules on Feb. 15. The assembly passed the bill as amended by AA 7 and AA 14. The senate did not take up the bill. A conference committee was appointed pursuant to AJR 129 to reconcile differences related to SB 749, AB 1126, and ABs 1233 to 1247. The committee reported Conf. Sub. 1, as amended by Conf. Am. 1, to AB 1126. The senate receded from its position on SB 749. The senate adopted the conference report on Mar. 25. The assembly concurred on Mar. 25.

41. The bill was reported by the Joint Committee on Finance as A. Sub. 1 but was never taken up.

42. The bill was introduced without a transportation budget. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 26 (including a transportation budget) and three other amendments on June 22. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 116 (which removed the transportation budget), SA 117, and SA 123 on June 28. The assembly concurred in SA 116 as amended by AA 1 and nonconcurred in SA 117 and SA 123 on June 29. The senate concurred in AA 1 to SA 116 and receded from its position on SA 117 and SA 123 on June 29.

43. The biennial budget bill did not include a transportation budget. The governor's recommendations given on Mar. 7 were introduced as AB 402. The Joint Committee on Finance reported the bill as A. Sub. 1 on May 30. The assembly referred the bill back to the Joint Committee on Finance on June 6. The bill was referred to the Committee on Rules on Oct. 10 but was never taken up.

44. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 2 as amended by four amendments on Oct. 12. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 2 as amended by SA 1 on Nov. 7. The assembly nonconcurred in SA 1 and requested a conference committee on Nov. 9. The committee reported Conf. Am. 1 on Nov. 14. The assembly adopted the conference report on Nov. 14. The senate concurred on Nov. 16.

45. This bill was introduced at the request of Governor Thompson in tandem with SB 562 and SB 563, which made changes to certain appropriations for the State Public Defender Board and the Department of Corrections. SB 562 and SB 563 were later enacted as Act 248 and Act 416,

respectively.

46. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 2 and SA 4 on Mar. 26. The assembly concurred in S. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 1 and AA 4 on Mar. 27. The senate concurred in AA 1 and AA 4 on Mar. 28.

47. The Joint Committee on Finance reported the bill as A. Sub. 1 on Mar. 21. The assembly tabled the bill on Mar. 27.

48. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 8 and AA 9 on Sept. 16. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 1 on Sept. 25. The assembly concurred in SA 1 on Sept. 29.

49. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 48 on May 6. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 on May 7.

50. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 2, AA 3, and AA 39 on June 30. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 (identical to A. Sub. 1) as amended by SA 1 on July 1. The assembly refused to concur in S. Sub. 1 on July 1. The senate requested a conference committee in SJR 19, adopted on July 1. The assembly requested a conference committee in AJR 65, adopted on July 1. On July 1, the assembly concurred in SJR 19 as amended by AA 1 and the senate concurred in AA 1. The committee reported Conf. Am. 1 to A. Sub. 1 on Oct. 5. The senate adopted the conference report on Oct. 6. The assembly concurred on Oct. 6.

51. The senate adopted SB 357 as amended by SA 2, SA 3, and SA 5 on Feb. 8. The bill was rereferred to the Joint Committee on Finance on Feb. 15 by the assembly and was not reported.

52. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 2 on June 19. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 (identical to S. Sub. 1) as amended by AA 1, AA 22, AA 69, AA 75, AA 120, and AA 123 on June 29. The assembly requested a conference committee in AJR 55, adopted on June 29. On July 2, the senate concurred in AJR 55 as amended by SA 1 and the assembly concurred in SA 1. The committee reported Conf. Am. 1 to S. Sub. 1 on July 26. The assembly adopted the conference report on July 26. The senate concurred on July 26.

53. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 1, AA 63, and AA 64 on Mar. 14. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 (identical to A. Sub. 1) as amended by SA 2 and SA 3 on Apr. 5. The assembly requested a conference committee in Jan. 2002 SS AJR 1, adopted on May 1. The senate concurred on May 1. The conference committee reported Conf. Am. 1 and Conf. Am. 2 to A. Sub. 1 on July 3. The senate adopted the conference report on July 3. The assembly concurred on July 5.

54. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 on Feb. 20. The assembly concurred in S. Sub 1 on Feb. 20.

55. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 119 and SA 121 on June 18. The assembly adopted AA 55 and concurred in S. Sub. 1 as amended on June 19. The senate concurred in AA 55 on June 24.

56. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 32 and AA 40 on June 21. The senate adopted SA 19, SA 29, and SA 50 and concurred in A. Sub. 1 as amended on June 30. The assembly concurred in SA 19, SA 29, and SA 50 on July 5.

57. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 1 and SA 2 on June 26. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 1 on July 10. The assembly requested a conference committee in AJR 59, adopted on July 10. The senate concurred in AJR 59 on July 17. The conference committee reported Conf. Sub. 1 on Oct. 23. The assembly adopted the conference report on Oct. 23. The senate concurred on Oct. 23.

58. The bill was introduced as an alternative budget proposal because SB 40 had not yet been enacted. October 2007 SS SB 1 did not include a transportation budget. The senate adopted Oct. 2007 SS SB 1 as amended by SA 1 on Oct. 15. The assembly refused to concur on Oct. 15.

59. October 2007 SS SB 1 did not include a transportation budget. The senate adopted Oct. 2007 SS SB 2 as amended by SA 1 on Oct. 15. The assembly failed to concur pursuant to SJR 1 on Oct. 23.

60. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 on Mar. 12. It was reported from the Senate Committee on Finance on Mar. 20. The senate adopted Mar. 2008 SS AB 1 as amended by SA 1 and SA 2 on Mar. 25. Pursuant to Joint Rule 3, the assembly requested and the senate agreed to a conference committee on May 12. The conference committee reported Conf. Sub. 1 on May 12. The senate adopted the conference report on May 13. The assembly concurred on May 14.

61. The senate adopted SB 62 as amended by SA 1 on Feb. 18. The assembly concurred in SB 62 on Feb. 18.

62. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 122 on June 11. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 1 and SA 17 on June 17. Pursuant to Joint Rule 3, the senate requested and the assembly agreed to a conference committee on June 24. The conference committee reported Conf. Am. 1 to S. Sub. 1 on June 25. The senate adopted the conference report on June 25. The assembly concurred on June 26.

63. The assembly adopted Jan. 2011 SS AB 11 as amended by AA 1 and AA 105 on Feb. 22. Pursuant to Joint Rule 3, the senate requested and the assembly agreed to a conference committee on Mar. 9. The conference committee reported Conf. Sub. 1 on Mar. 9. The senate adopted the conference committee report on Mar. 9. The assembly concurred on Mar. 10.

64. The Joint Committee on Finance reported the bill as S. Sub. 1 on Feb. 17. The senate tabled the bill on June 16.

65. The bill was referred to and withdrawn from the Joint Committee on Finance on Apr. 4, pursuant to Senate Rule 41 (1) (e). The senate adopted Jan. 2011 SS SB 12 on Apr. 5. The assembly concurred in Jan. 2011 SS SB 12 on Apr. 5.

66. The assembly adopted AB 148 as amended by AA 1 and AA 2 on June 8. The senate concurred in AB 148 on June 14.

67. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 1 on June 14. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 on June 16.

68. The Joint Committee on Finance reported the bill as S. Sub. 1 on June 14. The senate tabled the bill on June 16.

69. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 3 on June 18. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 on June 21.

70. The senate adopted S. Sub. 1 as amended by SA 1 and SA 2 on July 7. The assembly concurred in S. Sub. 1 on July 8.

71. The Joint Committee on Finance reported the bill as A. Sub. 1 on July 7. The assembly tabled the bill on July 8.

72. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 20 on Sept. 13. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 on Sept. 15.

73. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 1 as amended by AA 1 on June 25. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 1 on June 26.

74. The assembly adopted A. Sub. 2 as amended by AA 9 and AA 10 on June 29. The senate concurred in A. Sub. 2 on June 30.

75. The senate adopted S. Sub. 2 as amended by SA 13 on June 28. The assembly concurred in S. Sub. 2 on June 29.

76. The senate adopted S. Sub. 2 as amended by SA 26 on July 2. The assembly concurred in S. Sub. 2 on July 2.