

# The House Ways and Means Committee & the Budget Process

**Budget Advisory Group**  
**January 22, 2024**

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## My #1 Piece of Advice

***“Know the Players, Know the Process,  
and Follow the Process”***

# House Ways and Means Committee

122 members are appointed to legislative committees by the speaker.

There are six standing committees in the House:

- Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Environmental Affairs
- Education and Public Works;
- Judiciary;
- Labor Commerce and Industry;
- Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs; and
- Ways and Means
  - 25 House members sit on Ways and Means

## Staff

- Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel
- Director of Legislation
- Budget Director
- Executive Secretary
- 7 Budget/Legislative Analysts

# House Ways and Means Committee

## Budget

- Drafts the annual appropriations bill, the CRF, and supplemental appropriations bills.

## Legislation

- Debates all legislation that deals with the raising of or expenditure of funds.
  - Taxes
  - Economic Incentives
  - Bond bills

# Budget Subcommittees

## Criminal Justice

- SLED, Dept of Public Safety, DNR, Corrections...

## Healthcare

- Health & Human Services, DHEC, Mental Health...

## Public Education

- Dept of Education, Governor's Schools...

## Higher Education

- Colleges and Universities, Technical Colleges, CHE

## Transportation and Regulatory

- Dept of Transportation, Consumer Affairs, Employment and Workforce...

## Constitutional

- Governor's Office, Secretary of State, Department of Administration...

## Economic Development

- Dept of Commerce, Dept of Agriculture, Dept of Revenue...

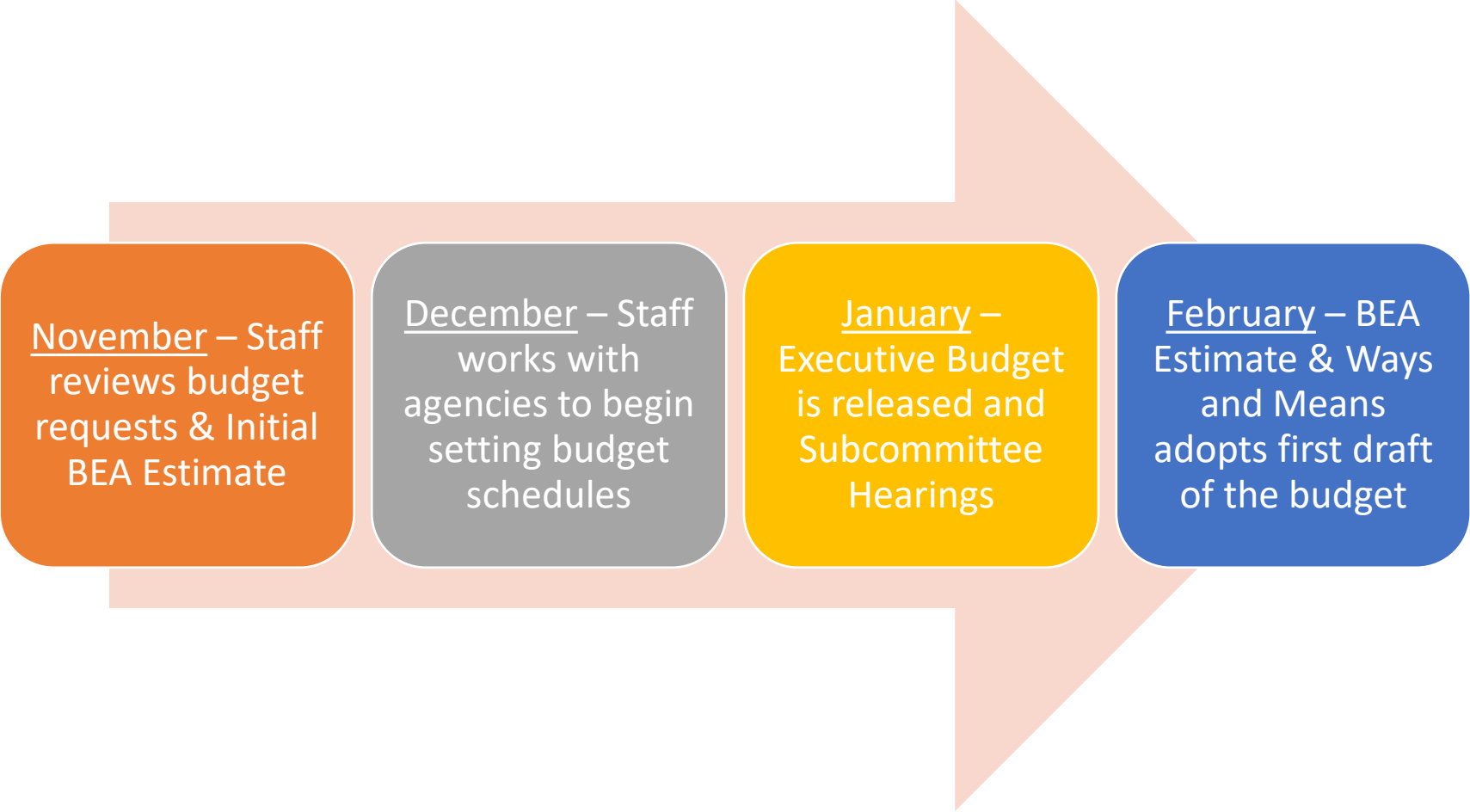
## Proviso Subcommittee

- Secondary review of all new/amended provisos

# Writing the State Budget



# W&M Budget Calendar



November – Staff reviews budget requests & Initial BEA Estimate

December – Staff works with agencies to begin setting budget schedules

January – Executive Budget is released and Subcommittee Hearings

February – BEA Estimate & Ways and Means adopts first draft of the budget

# W&M Budget Calendar

March – Full House debates and passes bill

April – Senate debates and passes the budget

May – House passes “H2” version and Conference Committee is appointed



# W&M Budget Calendar



June – Conference Committee meets, Conference Report Adopted, and bill sent to the Governor

June/July/January/Never– Vetoes are taken up and voted on.

# Possible Paths

House

Senate

Governor

House

Senate

House

Governor

House

Senate

House

Senate

Governor

House

Senate

House

Senate

Conference

Governor

## What do you mean this bill isn't perfect? - Vetoes

- The governor has line-item veto authority over appropriation bills under Article IV, § 21 of the S.C. Constitution.
- The governor can only veto **distinct items or sections in budget, not mere sentences or fragments.**
- The governor must act on the bill within 5 days after receipt (Sundays excluded).
- The governor returns his/her budget vetoes to the House, as the originating legislative body. *Vetoes can be overridden by a two-thirds vote.*

# What Impacts funding decisions?

## Out of your control

- Money Available: Revenue, Annual Obligations & Liabilities, bills passed by the General Assembly
- Politics
- Statewide Priorities

## Within your control

- Trust in the agency and its leadership
- Solid Relationships between agency and members/staff
- Good, year-round communication with committee staff
- A clear understanding of the needs presented or the goals to be achieved
- Measurable results & previous years expenditure results
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Understanding the difference in needs vs. wants
- Being flexible

# Tips for Success

## Do

- Provide details – FTEs and single requests that fund multiple programs
- Build relationships with legislative staff and be responsive to their requests.
- Be honest and upfront. Don't sit on bad news. We don't like surprises. We can also work with you on a positive outcome.
- If something changes or comes up, particularly concerning numbers, don't just call or mention it in passing. Send an email or have it in writing.
- Include or inform the analyst about conversations with the subcommittee chairman. Don't assume the member will pass on information or remember details.
- Always follow up if there is something important to your agency and you haven't heard any feedback.

## Do Not

- Don't spend money you don't have.
- Provide one-line explanations on newly requested items.
- Don't panic over legislative requests. A variety of components can make those up. Answer the best you can and ask for any clarification you need. Before the deadline.
- Don't bring gifts to the budget hearing.

Questions?

