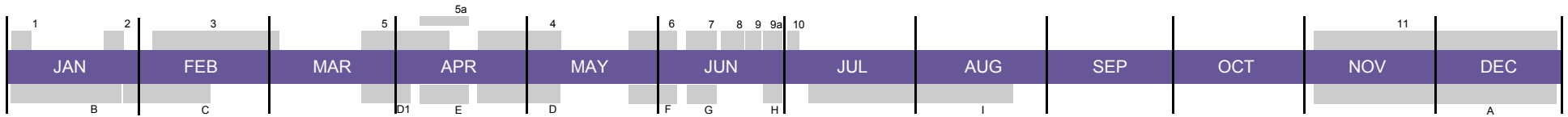


MASSACHUSETTS BUDGET TIMETABLE



1. General Court convenes on the 1st Wednesday of January
2. Governor files House 1 within 3 weeks after the General Court convenes
3. House Committee on Ways and Means (W&Ms) holds public hearings (last 2 FY's - Joint hearings were held) — state agencies and public are allowed to testify; House members make their FY budget requests to the Chair of House W&Ms
4. House releases budget; budget amendments are due in the House Clerk's office within several days of release of the budget; House debates budget (week-long process); House engrosses their budget, as amended to the Senate for consideration
5. Senate Committee on Ways and Means hold public hearings—state agencies and public are allowed to testify
- 5a. Senators will meet with Chair of Senate Committee on Ways and Means to present their FY budget priorities
6. Senate releases budget; budget amendments due in the Senate Clerk's office within a few days of release of the budget; Senate debates budget over the course of 3-4 days; Senate engrosses their budget, as amended to House for concurrence.
7. House non-concurs; Conference Committee established in order to 'iron-out' the differences between the two different versions of the annual appropriation bill (members of Conference Committee= Chairs of W&Ms, Vice-chairs of W&Ms; ranking minority members of W&Ms ---Asst. Vice Chairs are also involved in the process). Conference committee process is a closed process, not open to the public or other legislators
8. Conference Committee issues their report. Report is referred to the House for a vote. No amendments can be added, vote is a 'yea' to accept the report, 'nay' to reject the report; House then refers the Conference Committee report to the Senate for the same 'yea' or 'nay' vote; report is enacted and sent to the Governor for his/her review.
9. Governor has ten days to review and exercise his/her authority to veto, in-part or in-full any item or "outside section"; the Governor then sends his 'veto message' to the legislature
- 9a. Any veto can be considered for override, but all veto overrides must originate in the House. After House overrides an item/outside section, then the relevant sections are sent to the Senate for consideration. Senate may or may not decide to take up item/outside section for an override vote. If Senate overrides veto, item/outside section becomes law immediately.
10. Fiscal year ends 6/30; Fiscal year begins 7/1
11. Governor / Governor's Fiscal Affairs Division at A&F solicit budget comments/request from agencies; Governor's staff prepares budget for release.