

HOW VIRGINIA'S BUDGET IS DEVELOPED AND ADOPTED



Virginia has a biennial (two-year) budget system. The biennial budget is enacted into law in even-numbered years, and amendments to it are enacted in off-numbered years. For example, the current budget for the 2016-2018 biennium was adopted by the 2016 General Assembly. Amendments to this two-year budget were considered by the General Assembly during its 2017 session.

Governor McAuliffe will present the 2018-2020 biennial budget and amendments to the FY 2017 budget (referred to as the Caboose) in the following pages. The General Assembly will adopt the budget during the 2018 session.

Developing the Commonwealth's budget is a process that takes many months, involving participation from state agencies, the legislature, and the public. The process includes five distinct phases: agency budget preparation, budget development, Governor's and secretarial review, legislative action, and budget implementation.

Key Budget Dates	
September 11, 2017	Instructions issued to agencies on preparing and submitting their proposed budget amendments
October 2, 2017	Agencies submitted their proposed budget amendments to the Department of Planning and Budget
December 18, 2017	Governor submits recommended budget to the General Assembly
January 10, 2018	General Assembly convenes
February 18, 2018	Budget bill crossover occurs*
March 10, 2018	General Assembly adjourns*
April 11, 2018	Reconvened General Assembly session occurs*

*indicates tentative dates