

Conference Committees

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Legislative review of the Executive budget proposal began on January 31, 2007 with the Governor's submission of his proposed State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2007-08 Budget to the Legislature. The Senate and Assembly conducted 12 joint public hearings starting on February 5th and ending on March 1st, taking public comment on the budget proposal. The Executive submitted amendments to the original budget on February 21st. At the end of February, staffs of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee prepared economy and receipts forecasts and on February 27th, the Consensus Economic and Revenue Conference reached a five-way agreement on revenues for the 2007-08 State Fiscal Year.

On March 12th, the Senate and Assembly began adopting budget bills including related legislation specifying programmatic and policy positions taken after review and analysis of the Executive submission.

To resolve the differences between the Senate and Assembly bills, the General Budget Conference Committee established spending targets by issue area within the amount determined to be available for additional spending priorities. These priorities, including education, higher education, health, environmental and economic development programs, totaled \$1.03 billion including \$154 million in tax rate reductions for businesses and incentives for manufacturing. The General Conference Committee also determined the process used to accomplish the final reconciliation of the State's Financial Plan.

To effectuate a final budget agreement, the General Budget Conference Committee empowered ten subcommittees, involving 120 Members, and assigned to each one a spending target from the \$1.03 billion in available resources. The subcommittees negotiated items for inclusion within General Fund targets and available federal and special revenue funds. They also deliberated over budget-related legislation and statutory language submitted by the Executive in accordance with Article VII of the State Constitution necessary for the enactment of the final budget package. Each subcommittee met publicly multiple times beginning on March 14th and concluding on March 30th. Subcommittee discussions permitted public disclosure of the deliberations.

On January 30, 1995, the New York State Legislature adopted a concurrent resolution creating a joint conference committee process to resolve differences between similar legislation passed by each house of the Legislature. That resolution helped pave the way for the Legislature to negotiate and pass the SFY 1998-99 State Budget in a public forum, thereby marking the first time such a process had been utilized in the budget context in New York. The open budget negotiation process continued this year, with the SFY 2007-08 State Budget having been resolved by the joint budget subcommittees. The final budget adopted by the Legislature on April 1st reflects the cooperative efforts of both houses.

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

ASSEMBLY

Speaker Sheldon Silver
Member of Assembly Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Member of Assembly Ronald Canestrari
Member of Assembly Aurelia Greene
Member of Assembly James Tedisco

SENATE

Majority Leader Joseph Bruno
Senator Owen Johnson
Senator Dean Skelos
Senator Thomas W. Libous
Senator Malcolm A. Smith

JOINT BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEES

EDUCATION

Member of Assembly Catherine Nolan
Member of Assembly Joan Christensen
Member of Assembly Darryl Towns
Member of Assembly Adriano Espaillat
Member of Assembly Amy Paulin*
Member of Assembly James Hayes
Member of Assembly Rob Walker*

Senator Steven Saland
Senator John Flanagan
Senator Frank Padavan
Senator James Seward
Senator George Winner*
Senator Suzi Oppenheimer
Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins*

GENERAL GOVERNMENT/LOCAL ASSISTANCE

Member of Assembly James Brennan
Member of Assembly Sam Hoyt
Member of Assembly Paul Tonko
Member of Assembly Sandra Galef
Member of Assembly Ann-Margaret Carrozza*
Member of Assembly Dan Burling
Member of Assembly Roy McDonald*

Senator Hugh Farley
Senator Elizabeth O'C Little
Senator Joseph Robach
Senator James Wright
Senator James Flanagan*
Senator Thomas Duane
Senator Antoine Thompson*

HIGHER EDUCATION

Member of Assembly Deborah Glick
Member of Assembly William Parment
Member of Assembly Earlene Hooper
Member of Assembly Vivian Cook
Member of Assembly William Colton*
Member of Assembly Joel Miller
Member of Assembly Tom O'Mara*

Senator Kenneth LaValle
Senator Joseph Griffo
Senator Serphin Maltese
Senator Charles Fuschillo
Senator Joseph Robach*
Senator Toby Stavisky
Senator Jose Serrano*

HUMAN SERVICES/LABOR

Member of Assembly Susan John	Senator Martin Golden
Member of Assembly Keith Wright	Senator James Seward
Member of Assembly Peter Abbate, Jr.	Senator George Maziarz
Member of Assembly William Scarborough	Senator Catharine Young
Member of Assembly Felix Ortiz*	Senator Joseph Griffo*
Member of Assembly Clifford Crouch	Senator Velmanette Montgomery
Member of Assembly Michael Spano*	Senator George Onorato*

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Member of Assembly Joseph Lentol	Senator Dale Volker
Member of Assembly Helene Weinstein	Senator John DeFrancisco
Member of Assembly Jeffrion Aubry	Senator Vincent Leibell, III
Member of Assembly RoAnn Destito	Senator Michael Nozzolio
Member of Assembly David Koon*	Senator Serphin Maltese*
Member of Assembly Dierdre Scozzafava	Senator Eric Adams
Member of Assembly David Townsend*	Senator Martin Malave Dilan*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Member of Assembly Robin Schimminger	Senator William Larkin
Member of Assembly Joseph Morelle	Senator James Alesi
Member of Assembly Audrey Pheffer	Senator John DeFrancisco
Member of Assembly Mark Weprin	Senator Vincent Leibell, III
Member of Assembly William Magnarelli*	Senator James Wright*
Member of Assembly Brian Kolb	Senator Kevin Parker
Member of Assembly Marc Butler*	Senator Efrain Gonzalez, Jr.*

HEALTH

Member of Assembly Richard Gottfried	Senator Kemp Hannon
Member of Assembly Steve Englebright	Senator Martin Golden
Member of Assembly Barbara Clark	Senator Mary Lou Rath
Member of Assembly J. Gary Pretlow	Senator George Winner
Member of Assembly Kevin Cahill*	Senator Catherine Young*
Member of Assembly James Bacalles	Senator Jeffrey Klein
Member of Assembly Robert Oaks*	Senator John Sampson*

MENTAL HYGIENE

Member of Assembly Peter M. Rivera	Senator Thomas Morahan
Member of Assembly Harvey Weisenberg	Senator James Alesi
Member of Assembly N. Nick Perry	Senator Elizabeth O'C Little
Member of Assembly Jeffrey Dinowitz	Senator Frank Padavan
Member of Assembly Joan Millman*	Senator Caesar Trunzo*
Member of Assembly Nancy Calhoun	Senator Ruben Diaz
Member of Assembly Gary Finch*	Senator Diane Savino*

AGRICULTURE/ENVIRONMENT/HOUSING

Member of Assembly Vito Lopez	Senator Carl Marcellino
Member of Assembly Robert Sweeney	Senator John Bonacic
Member of Assembly William Magee	Senator Mary Lou Rath
Member of Assembly John McEneny	Senator Catharine Young
Member of Assembly Margaret Markey*	Senator Andrew Lanza*
Member of Assembly Fred Thiele	Senator David Valesky
Member of Assembly James Conte*	Senator Liz Krueger*

TRANSPORTATION

Member of Assembly David Gantt	Senator Michael Nozzolio
Member of Assembly Richard Brodsky	Senator Charles Fuschillo
Member of Assembly Ivan Lafayette	Senator Andrew Lanza
Member of Assembly Rhoda Jacobs	Senator Caesar Trunzo
Member of Assembly Ruben Diaz, Jr.*	Senator John Bonacic*
Member of Assembly Will Barclay	Senator John Sabini
Member of Assembly Bill Reilich*	Senator Craig Johnson*

* *Alternate*

AGENCY ASSIGNMENTS
SFY 2007-08 BUDGET CONFERENCE SUBCOMMITTEES

**General Government/
Local Assistance**

Alcoholic Beverage Control
Audit and Control
Banking
Division of Budget
Consumer Protection Board
State Board of Elections
Executive Chamber
Office of General Services
General State Charges
Office of the Inspector General
Insurance Department
Temporary State Commission
 On Lobbying
Lottery
Real Property Services
Regulatory Reform
Department of State
Taxation and Finance
Division of Tax Appeals
Office for Technology
Aid to Localities

Economic Development

Dept. of Economic Development
Racing & Wagering Board
NYS Foundation for Science,
 Technology and Innovation
Urban Development Corp.
Energy Capital

Public Protection

Capital Defender Office
Commission of Correction
Dept. of Correctional Services
Crime Victims Board
Div. of Criminal Justice Svcs.
Off. of Homeland Security
Interest on Lawyers Account
Temp. State Commission
 on Investigation
Judicial Commissions
Department of Law
Military and Naval Affairs
Division of Parole
Probation and Correctional
 Alternatives
Off. for Prevention of Domestic
 Violence
Division of State Police
Statewide Wireless Network
Judiciary

Education

Education Department

Transportation

Dept. of Transportation
Dept. of Motor Vehicles
NYS Thruway Authority
Metropolitan Trans. Authority

**Agriculture/Environment/
Housing**

Adirondack Park Agency
Agriculture & Markets
Environmental Conservation
Environmental Facilities Corp
Office of Parks, Recreation and
 Historic Preservation
Olympic Regional Dev. Corp.
Energy Research and
 Development Authority
Public Service
Housing & Community Renewal
Hudson River Park Trust
State of NY Mortgage Agency
Greenway Heritage Conserv.
 For the Hudson River Valley
Hudson River Valley Greenway
 Communities Council

Mental Hygiene

Adv. For Persons w/Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities
 Planning Council
Department of Mental Hygiene
Office of Mental Health
Office of Mental Retardation &
 Developmental Disabilities
Off. of Alcoholism & Sub. Abuse
Commission on Quality of Care
for the Mentally Disabled
Comm. On Quality of Care and
 Advocacy for Persons with
 Disabilities

Human Services

Department of Civil Service
Council on Children & Families
Off. of Children & Family Svcs
Office of Employee Relations
Division of Human Rights
Department of Labor
Public Employment Relations Bd.
Temporary and Disability
 Assistance
Veterans' Affairs
Welfare Inspector General
Workers' Compensation Board
State Labor Relations Board
Wicks Reform

Higher Education

Council on the Arts
City University of New York
Higher Education Svcs. Corp.
State University of New York
State Univ. Construction Fund

Health

Health
Medicaid
Aging