

ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senator Gilbert Baker
Senate Co-Chairman

Senator Terry Smith
Senate Vice-Chair



Representative Bruce Maloch
House Co-Chairman

Rep. Kathy Webb
House Vice-Chair

JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Joint Budget Committee

FROM: Senator Gilbert Baker, Co-Chair
Representative Bruce Maloch, Co-Chair

SUBJECT: Annual Sessions

DATE: January 15, 2009

The attached memo dated November 19, 2008 from the Co-Chairs of the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee regarding annual sessions and proposed procedures for implementing Amendment 86 of the Arkansas Constitution concerning fiscal sessions is being provided for your review. As announced during the Joint Budget meeting yesterday, time will be set aside during the next meeting of Joint Budget scheduled for 9:00 Wednesday January 21st for committee discussion concerning fiscal session procedures.

It should be noted that there has been some discussion about changing the beginning date of the fiscal session and moving it up from the second Monday in February to sometime in January. A bullet timeline for the two scenarios are provided below.

Please review the memo and come prepared to discuss this important issue and bring-forth any recommendations you may have to the next committee meeting.

FEBRUARY 2010 FISCAL SESSION - 2ND MONDAY

- **November 2009** Legislative Council Meeting: Last opportunity for Council to approve an agency to be heard during pre-fiscal session budget hearings other than the "big 6" (Department of Education Public School Fund Account, Institutions of Higher Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Correction and Department of Community Correction) and have budget information included in a budget manual with a recommendation by the Executive.

- **December 2009** Legislative Council Meeting: Last opportunity for Council to approve an agency to be heard during pre-fiscal session budget hearings (other than the big 6 agencies and any other agencies previously approved) if approved by the Joint Budget Committee and recommended by the Executive.
- **January 2010** 2nd Monday: Budget Hearings. Big 6 agencies (K-12 Ed, Institutions of Higher Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Correction and Department of Community Correction) plus any others as approved by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

JANUARY 2010 FISCAL SESSION - 2ND MONDAY

- **September 2009** Legislative Council Meeting: Last opportunity for Council to approve an agency to be heard during pre-fiscal session budget hearings other than the "big 6" (Department of Education Public School Fund Account, Institutions of Higher Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Correction and Department of Community Correction) and have budget information included in a budget manual with a recommendation by the Executive.
- **October 2009** Legislative Council Meeting: Last opportunity for Council to approve an agency to be heard during pre-fiscal session budget hearings (other than the big 6 agencies and any other agencies previously approved) if approved by the Joint Budget Committee and recommended by the Executive.
- **November 2009** 2ND MONDAY: Budget Hearings. Big 6 agencies (K-12 Ed, Institutions of Higher Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Correction and Department of Community Correction) plus any others as approved by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Officers

Sen. Henry "Hank" Wilkins, IV

Senate Co-Chair

Rep. Scott Sullivan

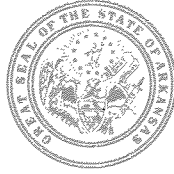
House Co-Chair

Sen. Steve Faris

Senate Co-Vice Chair

Rep. John Paul Wells

House Co-Vice Chair



**Room 315, State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201**

David Ferguson
Executive Secretary

Tel: 501-682-1937
Fax: 501-682-1936

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee

FROM: Senator Henry "Hank" Wilkins, IV and Representative Scott Sullivan

SUBJECT: Annual Sessions

DATE: December 19, 2008

Due to the passage of the constitutional amendment requiring fiscal sessions and limiting appropriations to no longer than one year, the following procedures are recommended for implementation purposes:

Pre-Fiscal Session Budget Hearings: Recommended to begin on the 2nd Monday in January of even numbered calendar years:

- Hearings are to be conducted by the Joint Budget Committee.
- Unless otherwise approved by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee the pre-fiscal session budget hearings will be limited to the Department of Education Public School Fund Account, Institutions of Higher Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Correction and the Department of Community Correction.
- Any proposed agency or institution changes to appropriation levels previously recommended by the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee (ALC/JBC) for the second fiscal year of a biennium shall contain, in sufficient detail as required by the Joint Budget Committee, justification for the agency or institution request and the executive or Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board recommendation.
- The Department of Finance & Administration shall provide to the Joint Budget Committee, by no later than one week prior to the start of pre-fiscal session budget hearings, a budget manual(s) containing the applicable appropriation and funding source budget forms reflecting any agency change request and executive recommendation.
- The Department of Higher Education shall provide to the Joint Budget Committee, by no later than one week prior to the start of pre-fiscal session budget hearings, a budget manual(s) containing the applicable appropriation and funding source budget forms reflecting any institution of higher education change request and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board recommendation regarding such request.

- Other agencies, boards and commissions as approved from time to time by the Arkansas Legislative Council, prior to its December meeting in odd numbered calendar years, may be included in the pre-fiscal session budget hearing process conducted by the Joint Budget Committee. Any agency appropriation level change request and the executive recommendation shall be included in the budget manual(s) provided to the Joint Budget Committee by the Department of Finance & Administration no later than one week prior to the start of pre-fiscal session budget hearings.
- Any agency, board or commission approved by the Arkansas Legislative Council, during its December meeting in odd numbered calendar years, may be considered during the pre-fiscal session budget hearing process if approved by the Joint Budget Committee and the Governor makes a recommendation for such agency through a letter to the committee requesting consideration.

Fiscal Session: Recommended to begin on the 2nd Monday in February of even numbered calendar years as provided in the amendment:

- Agency Operations Appropriation: Bills will be introduced based on the ALC/JBC Recommendation made during the even numbered year Fall Budget Hearings or upon recommendations made by the Joint Budget Committee during its budget hearings before the start of the Fiscal Session. Any other appropriation, personnel or special language changes approved by the Joint Budget Committee during the Fiscal Session will be made by committee amendment as is done during a Regular Session. Further, the Executive through Governor's Letters may submit for committee consideration any changes, additions, or deletions to appropriation bills he/she would propose.
- General Improvement Bills: If necessary, a duplicate bill may be drafted for each bill introduced and passed during the Regular Session for introduction during the Fiscal Session. This would include all Joint Budget Committee sponsored bills as well as member sponsored bills if the General Improvement Distribution Act authorized funding for the bill and if a balance of funds remained available for the project for the second year of the biennium.
- Re-appropriation Bills: If necessary, a duplicate bill with the exception of act, section number references and effective date may be drafted for each bill passed during the Regular Session for introduction during the Fiscal Session.
- Supplemental Bills: Drafted and introduced as recommended by the Joint Budget Committee.

Funding Bills:

- Revenue Stabilization Law Amendment - The recommendation is to draft the Revenue Stabilization Law amendment during the Regular Session to include the first year of the biennium only and to draft a new Revenue Stabilization Law Amendment for the second fiscal year during the Fiscal Session.
- General Improvement Distribution Act - The recommendation is to draft the General Improvement Distribution Act during the Regular Session and continue the current biennial funding mechanism.