



## **Toward a Strong Budget for Kids: Timeline for Budget Preparations**

### **Prior to the Legislative Session**

#### **April:**

- Each branch of government recommends rules and forms to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) for budget requests. (*Note:* Legislative Research Commission is a 16-member panel of Republican and Democratic members of the House of Representatives and Senate with a full-time director and staff to support the legislature.)

#### **July:**

- LRC releases uniform instructions to be used by the branches of government during the budget process.

#### **August:**

- The Office of the State Budget Director, in conjunction with the Consensus Forecasting Group, provides a budget planning report with information on economic conditions, revenue estimates and projections, and analysis and projections on economic indicators. (*Note:* The Consensus Forecasting Group is the group established in statute to develop consensus revenue forecasts for the state.)

#### **September:**

- The Finance and Administration Cabinet provides each branch of government with uniform budget forms and instructions for preparing their budget recommendations.

#### **October:**

- The Office of the State Budget Director provides each branch of government preliminary revenue estimates from the Consensus Forecasting Group for the current year and next two years, which serves as the basis for the appropriations that will be made in the branch budget bills.

#### **November:**

- By November 15<sup>th</sup>, agencies submit budget requests to the head of the budget unit of the respective branch of government and to the LRC.

## **Legislative Budget Process**

### **January:**

- The legislative session begins on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of the year.
- By the 10<sup>th</sup> legislative day (or the 15<sup>th</sup> legislative day in years following the election of a new Governor), the Governor, Chief Justice, and LRC submit their budget proposals to the General Assembly.
- By the 15<sup>th</sup> legislative day, the Office of the State Budget Director certifies and presents the state's official revenue forecast made by the Consensus Forecasting Group.

### **Throughout legislative session:**

- The Appropriations and Revenue Committees and the six Budget Review Subcommittees meet and hold hearings on the budget proposals from agencies. The House Appropriations and Revenue Committee often makes adjustments to the proposed budget and passes a budget that proceeds to the full House.
- After three readings, the full House votes on the budget bill, and a majority vote is required for passage. The bill then moves to the Senate for consideration.
- The Senate Appropriations & Revenue Committee conducts budget hearings and often makes amendments to the version passed by the House. The Senate committee passes a budget bill.
- If differences exist between the versions of the budget passed by the House and Senate, a conference committee is created – with selected legislators appointed – to work through the differences. The House of Representatives and Senate each must pass the new budget bill by a majority vote.
- The Governor receives the final budget bill and may sign the bill into law, let the bill become law without signing it, or veto specific items in the bill. The legislature can override vetoes made by the Governor with a majority vote in each chamber.

### **Sources:**

Kentucky Revised Statutes 48.040

Kentucky Revised Statutes 48.050

Kentucky Revised Statutes 48.100

Kentucky Revised Statutes 48.120