**Commonwealth of Massachusetts Budget Process**

1. [Governor's Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/GovernorsBudget)

The annual budget process begins each year when the Governor files recommendations as a bill with the House of Representatives. Under the state Constitution, the Governor must submit a proposal by the 4th Wednesday in January or, in the event of a new term, within five weeks later. This bill is called 'House 1’ or ‘House 2’ depending on the year

1. [House Ways & Means Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/HouseWaysMeansBudget)

The House Committee on Ways and Means examines the [Governor's Proposal](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/GovernorsBudget) and releases its own recommendations for the annual budget for deliberation by the House of Representatives. Prior to release of the House Ways and Means Budget, Joint Ways and Means Committee budget hearings are held across the state.

1. [House Debate](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/HouseDebate)

The full body of the House of Representatives considers amendments to the [House Ways and Means recommendations](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/HouseWaysMeansBudget), and debates their inclusion in the bill. This is a very busy time for the House of Representatives, as the Representatives and their staffs are constantly working to make sure the concerns and needs of their constituents are addressed in the final budget.

1. [House Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/HouseBudget)

After debate on amendments to the [House Ways and Means recommendations](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/HouseWaysMeansBudget), the House of Representatives then approves a final, amended version of the bill which is then sent to the Senate for consideration.

1. [Senate Ways & Means Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/SenateWaysMeansBudget)

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means examines both the [Governor's proposal](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/GovernorsBudget) and the [House proposal](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/HouseBudget) and releases its own recommendations for the annual budget for deliberation by the Senate.

1. [Senate Debate](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/SenateDebate)

The full body of the Senate considers amendments to the [Senate Ways and Means recommendations](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/SenateWaysMeansBudget), and debates their inclusion in the bill. This is a very busy time for the Senate, as the Senators and their staffs are constantly working to make sure the concerns and needs of their constituents are addressed in the final budget.

1. [Senate Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/SenateBudget)

After debate on amendments to [Senate Ways and Means recommendations](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/SenateWaysMeansBudget), the Senate then approves a final, amended version of the bill which is then sent to a Conference Committee for review.

1. [Conference Committee](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/ConferenceCommittee)

The House and Senate appoint three members each to a "Conference Committee" to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate proposals. One member of the minority party must be appointed by each branch. The Conference Committee reports a final compromise bill to the House and Senate for a final vote of acceptance in each branch.

1. [Final Budge](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/FinalBudget)t

The Governor has 10 days to review the budget and take action to either approve or veto the budget. The Governor may approve or veto the entire budget, veto or reduce specific line items, veto outside sections or submit changes as an amendment to the budget for further consideration by the Legislature.

Following any legislative overrides to the Governor's actions, the budget is finalized and is commonly referred to as the "General Appropriations Act" for the upcoming fiscal year.

Fiscal Year 2021 Governor’s H.2 proposed budget in the amount of $6.8M was submitted in January 2020 as scheduled. House Ways and Means held agency head budget testimony hearings. And due to COVID-19 the legislature budget process was halted, and we currently are operating on budget as proposed in H.2. We just submitted our spending base on the proposed amount and are waiting for approval from Administration and Finance. We will also be submitting our FY’2022 Maintenance and hope it will go through the normal budget process.

Yesterday Governor Baker submitted a Revised H.2 budget for FY’21, and MCDHH’s budget remains the same as in January 2020.