

# How the Budget is Structured

House Committee on Appropriations

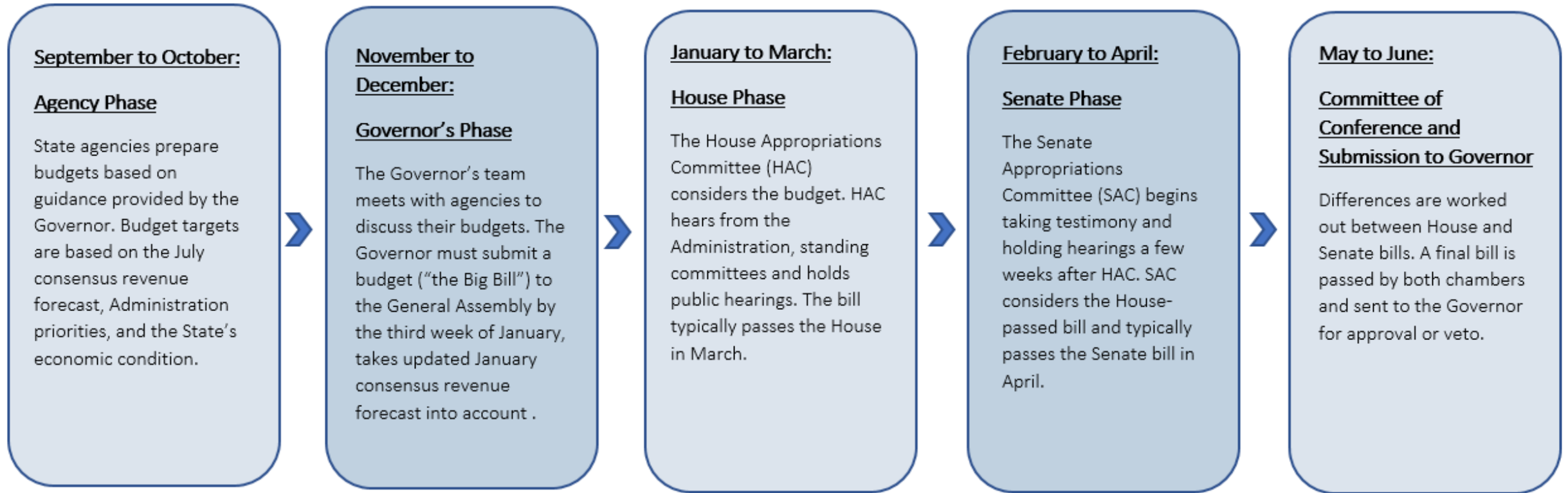
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# Vermont's Budget Process

- The State operating budget is built on an annual basis, appropriating funds for a single fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).
- The budget process begins nine months before the start of the fiscal year it covers.



# Reading the Budget

- Different numbering structure from all other bills
- Different numbering structure from the Budget Adjustment Act
- Same numbering structure year to year (mostly)
- A, B, C, D, and E sections
- Plus some others...



# A Sections

- Annual explanatory sections
- Purpose, definitions, and the legend
- Outlines the authority being given to the Administration



Sec. A.108 LEGEND

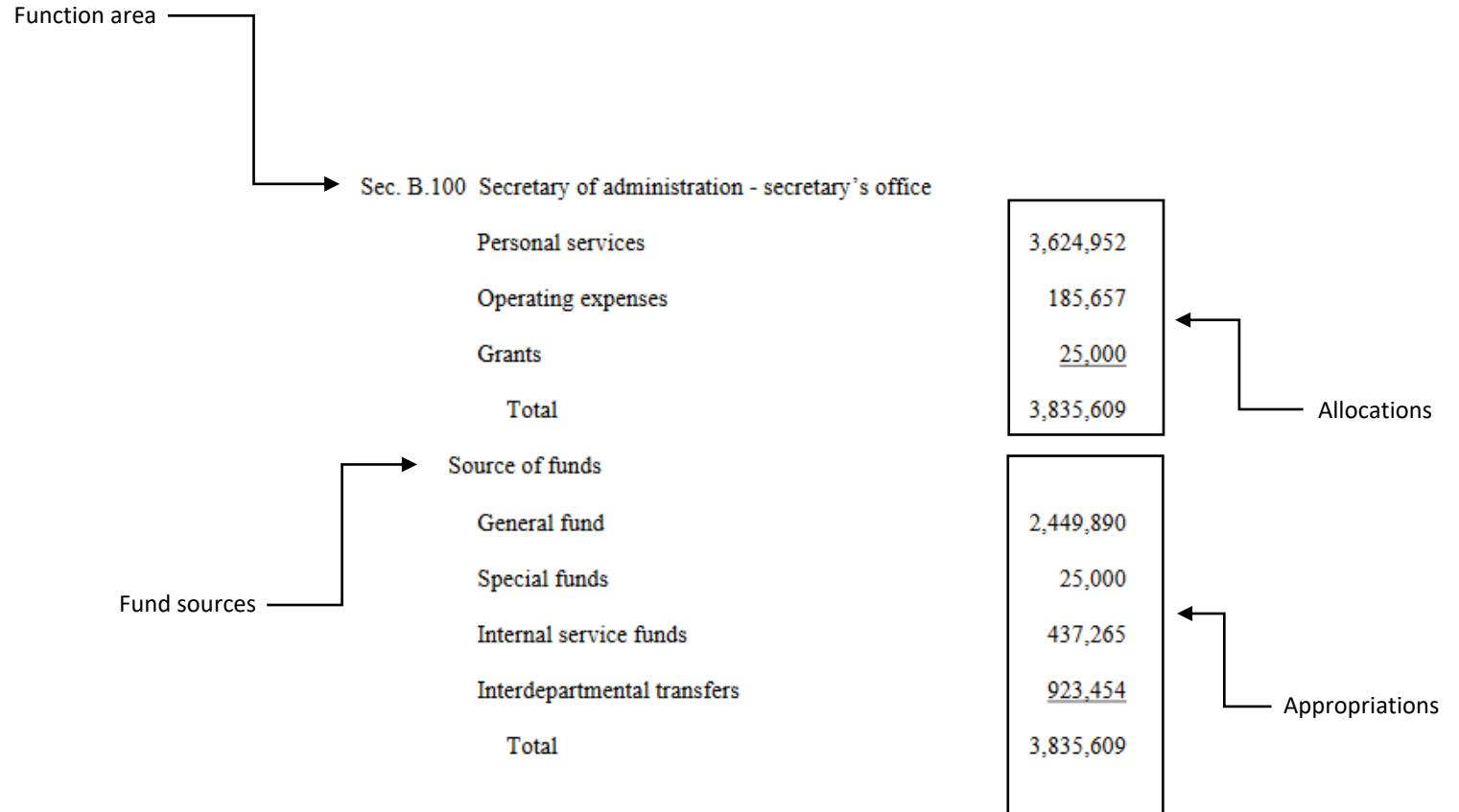
(a) The bill is organized by functions of government. The sections between B.100 and B.9999 contain appropriations of funds for the upcoming budget year. The sections between E.100 and E.9999 contain language that relates to specific appropriations or government functions, or both. The function areas by section numbers are as follows:

<u>B.100–B.199 and E.100–E.199</u>	<u>General Government</u>
<u>B.200–B.299 and E.200–E.299</u>	<u>Protection to Persons and Property</u>
<u>B.300–B.399 and E.300–E.399</u>	<u>Human Services</u>
<u>B.400–B.499 and E.400–E.499</u>	<u>Labor</u>
<u>B.500–B.599 and E.500–E.599</u>	<u>General Education</u>
<u>B.600–B.699 and E.600–E.699</u>	<u>Higher Education</u>
<u>B.700–B.799 and E.700–E.799</u>	<u>Natural Resources</u>
<u>B.800–B.899 and E.800–E.899</u>	<u>Commerce and Community Development</u>
<u>B.900–B.999 and E.900–E.999</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
<u>B.1000–B.1099 and E.1000–E.1099</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>
<u>B.1100–B.1199 and E.1100–E.1199</u>	<u>One-time and other appropriation actions</u>



# B Sections

- “Numbers sections”
- Base appropriations for the coming fiscal year
- Match the current web report
- Each function area shows where funds are going and where they’re coming from – but not in full detail



# Other B Sections

- One-time appropriations for the coming fiscal year
- One-time federal funds
- Cash fund (Capital Bill)
- Miscellaneous one-times

\*\*\* Fiscal Year 2025 One-Time Appropriations \*\*\*

Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME  
APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. B.1101.1 TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

Sec. B.1102 UNOBLIGATED GENERAL FUND CONTINGENT  
APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. B.1103 CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL  
INVESTMENTS – FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME  
APPROPRIATIONS



# C Sections

- **Current year** adjustments, appropriations, and amendments
- We don't catch everything in the Budget Adjustment Act, even though we try
- The Budget is the next opportunity to make changes to the current fiscal year
- Can address funding shortfalls, move funds, and change time-sensitive policy
- Typically these sections are effective *on passage*

Sec. C.117 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 64, Sec. 3a, is amended to read:

Sec. 3a. APPROPRIATION; SCHOOL MEALS

The sum of ~~\$29,000,000.00~~ \$26,400,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of Education for fiscal year 2024 to provide reimbursement for school meals under 16 V.S.A. § 4017.





# D Sections

- Transfers, reversions, and reserve allocations for the coming fiscal year
  - D.100 – allocation of the property transfer tax
  - D.101 – fund transfers
  - D.102 – reversions



# E Sections

- **Everything else**, mostly
- Language corresponding to the numbers sections
- There isn't an E section for every B section, but every E section links up with a B section
- Mix of annual language and new language
- Annual language will typically have the same number year to year
- If two or more E sections relate to a particular B section, they'll be numbered as .1, .2, etc.

## Sec. E.208 PUBLIC SAFETY; ADMINISTRATION

(a) The Commissioner of Public Safety is authorized to enter into a performance-based contract with the Essex County Sheriff's Department to provide law enforcement service activities agreed upon by both the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Sheriff.

## Sec. E.208.1 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; EMBEDDED

### MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS; REPORT

(a) In 2025, the Department of Public Safety shall present the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Judiciary with measurable outcomes on the results of the Department's embedded mental health worker program to date, by barrack, and on the Department's collaboration with the Department of Mental Health to achieve a coordinated and integrated system of care, including how this program works with 988, with the statewide Mobile Crisis Response program, and with the designated and specialized service agencies.



# F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, and Z Sections

- Change year to year
- Sometimes aren't in the bill at all
- These are sections that get *pulled into the bill*
- Act 113:
  - F Sections – financial regulation fees
  - G Sections – Pay Act
  - H Section – effective dates
- The effective dates section is always last and always has its own section letter



# Wrapping Up

- A lot of the budget is annual language
- Some of what's in the Governor's recommended budget will get pulled into the Budget Adjustment Act
- Things that are missed in the Budget Adjustment Act will get pulled into the budget
- A Sections explain the bill
- B Sections appropriate
- C Sections affect the current fiscal year
- D Sections move money around
- E Sections contain language relating to corresponding B Sections
- Other sections vary year to year and come from other bills

