

Senate and House Appropriations Committees Guidance

February 15, 2017

Joint Base Budget Review and Educational Meetings

- Review the Base Budget.
 - Provide members with fundamental budget and program information they need to make informed decisions;
 - Provide members with information on agency operations.
 - Review budget documents that include key spending areas, receipts, grants and other sources of funding.
 - Focus on any problematic expenditure trends.
- Develop a Committee strategy designed to focus discussion and presentations on achieving budget priorities.
 - Use the long session to focus on broad budget policy initiatives.
 - During the short session, make necessary adjustments and determine where agencies are in achieving required outcomes.
- Determine which programs and initiatives work.
 - Realign funds from obsolete or ineffective programs to invest in proven programs and practices with positive outcomes.
 - Use reliable program evaluations and reports: study committee reports, program evaluation reports, audits, and agency reports submitted to Governmental Operations, oversight committees, Full Appropriations or Fiscal Research.
 - When applicable, consider adding new evaluation requirements that will provide information members can use to determine the funding level of new or existing program or initiatives.

Other Joint Committee Guidance

- Conduct Joint Base Budget reviews and educational meetings beginning Tuesday, February 21.
- Maintain transparency by holding open meetings and posting documents to Committee websites.
- Consult with other Committees on items that cross Committee areas.
- Refer statewide items to the Full Chairs.
 - Salary-related items, debt service, capital and other statewide issues
- Plan to meet with the Full Chairs on the committee's progress reviewing agency base budgets and assessing State programs and other Committee guidance.
- Use the Joint Calendar to plan and complete your Joint work by the established deadlines.