**N.C. LEGISLATIVE BIENNIAL BUDGET PROCESS**

2023 — “Long session” of General Assembly

(odd-numbered years)

By law, this process should be completed by July 1, which marks the beginning of the next fiscal year. When the General Assembly fails to meet this deadline, in the absence of a budget, current spending levels and authority continue in order to avoid a State government shutdown.

**START**
Governor releases budget plan - mid-to-late spring 2023

**PRESENT TO LEGISLATURE**
Office of State and Budget Management and other state agencies detail Governor’s budget plan.
Typically includes goals for core employee compensation.

**HOUSE DEVELOPS AND RATIFIES ITS OWN BUDGET, sending it to the Senate**
Can take several weeks due to more members in the House (208 vs 50 in the Senate).

**SENATE REVIEWS HOUSE BUDGET AND RATIFIES ITS OWN VERSION, sending it back to the HOUSE**

**CHAMBERS VOTE TO “GO TO CONFERENCE” & WORK OUT DIFFERENCES**
Speaker of the NC House of Representatives and President Pro Tempore of the NC Senate appoint members from each chamber.

**CONFERENCE REPORT ISSUED**
Agreement on the budget that cannot be amended, which receives an “up or down” vote from both chambers.

**GOVERNOR’S OPTION**

- **NO**
  - **SEND BACK TO THE LEGISLATURE WITH VETO**
    - Legislature can elect to reject smaller budget bills in hopes of avoiding some of the pitfalls of the greater budget that was already vetoed. These miscellaneous can be defeated in the legislative session and vetoed by the Governor.

- **YES**
  - **SIGNS CONFERENCE REPORT BUDGET INTO LAW**
    - Governor can allow bill to become law by not signing it within 10 days.

2024 — “Short session” of General Assembly

(even-numbered years)

**START**
Both chambers return - late spring 2024

**END SHORT SESSION**
Both chambers tweak budget based on new revenues and other factors.