

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Legislative review of the Executive budget proposal began on January 18, 2005 with the Governor's submission of his proposed SFY 2005-06 Budget to the Legislature. The Executive submitted amendments to the original budget on February 7<sup>th</sup> and February 17<sup>th</sup>. At the end of February, staffs of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee prepared economy and receipts forecasts and on March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Consensus Economic and Revenue Conference reached a five-way agreement on revenues for the 2005-06 State fiscal year.

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Assembly adopted a budget resolution specifying programmatic and policy positions taken on the Budget after review and analysis of the Executive submission. Also on March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Senate began passing amended versions of all the Budget bills and related legislation submitted by the Executive, including the Senate's budgetary priorities and detailed specific legislation.

To resolve the differences between the two houses, the General Budget Conference Committee was convened on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The General Committee established spending targets by issue area within the amount determined to be available for spending needs above the Executive's proposed budget. These needs, including education, higher education, health, environmental and economic development programs, totaled \$1.52 billion. The Committee also determined the process used to distribute additional capital projects funding and to accomplish the final reconciliation of the State's Financial Plan.

To effectuate a final budget agreement, the General Budget Conference Committee empowered ten subcommittees, involving 122 Members, and assigned to each one a spending target from the \$1.52 billion in available resources. Each of the subcommittees negotiated items for inclusion within General Fund targets, re-programmed certain Federal and Special Revenue funds, and deliberated over budget related legislation and language submitted by the Executive in accordance with Article VII of the State Constitution necessary for the enactment of the final budget package. Each subcommittee met publicly multiple times beginning on March 16<sup>th</sup> and concluding on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Subcommittee discussions permitted public disclosure of the deliberations.

On January 30, 1995, the New York State Legislature adopted a concurrent resolution creating a joint conference committee process to resolve differences between similar legislation passed by each house of the Legislature. That resolution helped pave the way for the Legislature to negotiate and pass the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 1998-99 State Budget in a public forum, thereby marking the first time such a process had been utilized in the budget context in New York. The public nature of budget negotiations continued this year, with the SFY 2005-06 State Budget having been resolved by the joint conference committees. The final budget adopted by the Legislature on March 30<sup>th</sup>, prior to beginning of the State Fiscal Year for the first time in 20 years, reflects the cooperative efforts of both houses to achieve a balanced product, on time in a public setting.

**GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**SENATE**

Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno  
Senator Owen H. Johnson  
Senator Dean G. Skelos  
Senator Nicholas A. Spano  
Minority Leader David A. Paterson  
Senator Neil D. Breslin\*

**ASSEMBLY**

Speaker Sheldon Silver  
Member of Assembly Herman D. Farrell, Jr.  
Member of Assembly Paul A. Tokasz  
Member of Assembly Rhoda S. Jacobs  
Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

Economic Development

Senator William Larkin  
Senator James Alesi  
Senator John DeFrancisco  
Senator Vincent Leibell, III  
Senator James Wright\*  
Senator Eric Schneiderman  
Senator Diane Savino\*

Member of Assembly Robin Schimminger  
Member of Assembly Joseph Morelle  
Member of Assembly Vivian Cook  
Member of Assembly Mark Weprin  
Member of Assembly N. Nick Perry\*  
Member of Assembly Brian M. Kolb  
Member of Assembly Fred Thiele, Jr.\*

Education

Senator Steven Saland  
Senator John Flanagan  
Senator Frank Padavan  
Senator James Seward  
Senator George Winner\*  
Senator Suzi Oppenheimer  
Senator George Onorato\*

Member of Assembly Steven Sanders  
Member of Assembly Aurelia Greene  
Member of Assembly William Parment  
Member of Assembly Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Assembly Sandra Galef\*  
Member of Assembly Thomas F. Barraga\*  
Member of Assembly James D. Conte

Gen. Gov't./Local Assistance

Senator Hugh Farley  
Senator Elizabeth O'C Little  
Senator Joseph Robach  
Senator James Wright  
Senator John Flanagan\*  
Senator William Stachowski  
Senator Byron Brown\*

Member of Assembly Robert Sweeney  
Member of Assembly Scott Stringer  
Member of Assembly Joan Christensen  
Member of Assembly Keith Wright  
Member of Assembly Brian McLaughlin\*  
Member of Assembly James Tedisco  
Member of Assembly Daniel Burling\*

Health

Senator Kemp Hannon  
Senator John Marchi  
Senator Mary Lou Rath  
Senator George Winner  
Senator Martin Golden\*  
Senator John Sampson  
Senator Carl Andrews\*

Member of Assembly Richard Gottfried  
Member of Assembly Alexander B. Grannis  
Member of Assembly Steve Englebright  
Member of Assembly Barbara Clark  
Member of Assembly Kevin Cahill\*  
Member of Assembly Maureen O'Connell  
Member of Assembly Robert Oakes\*

Higher Education

Senator Kenneth LaValle  
Senator Charles Fuschillo, Jr.  
Senator Serphin Maltese  
Senator James Seward  
Senator Joseph Robach\*  
Senator Toby Stavisky  
Senator Jose Serrano\*

Member of Assembly Ronald Canestrari  
Member of Assembly Ivan Lafayette  
Member of Assembly James Brennan  
Member of Assembly Earlene Hooper  
Member of Assembly Darryl Towns\*  
Member of Assembly Chris Ortloff  
Member of Assembly Joel Miller\*

Human Services/Labor

Senator Raymond Meier  
Senator Martin Golden  
Senator Vincent Leibell, III  
Senator George Maziarz  
Senator James Seward\*  
Senator Velmanette Montgomery  
Senator Efrain Gonzalez, Jr.\*

Member of Assembly Debra Glick  
Member of Assembly Susan John  
Member of Assembly Peter Abbate, Jr.  
Member of Assembly Clarence Norman, Jr.  
Member of Assembly William Scarborough\*  
Member of Assembly James Hayes  
Member of Assembly Marc Butler\*

Mental Hygiene

Senator Thomas Morahan  
Senator Michael Balboni  
Senator Elizabeth O'C Little  
Senator Frank Padavan  
Senator James Alesi\*  
Senator Ruben Diaz  
Senator Jeffrey Klein\*

Member of Assembly Peter M. Rivera  
Member of Assembly Harvey Weisenberg  
Member of Assembly Jack McEneny  
Member of Assembly Jeffrey Dinowitz  
Member of Assembly J. Gary Pretlow\*  
Member of Assembly Nancy Calhoun  
Member of Assembly Matthew Mirones\*

Public Protection

Senator Dale Volker  
Senator Michael Balboni  
Senator John DeFrancisco  
Senator Michael Nozzolio  
Senator Serphin Maltese\*  
Senator Thomas Duane  
Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson\*

Member of Assembly Joseph Lentol  
Member of Assembly Helene Weinstein  
Member of Assembly Jeffrion Aubry  
Member of Assembly RoAnn Destito  
Member of Assembly Adriano Espaillet\*  
Member of Assembly Diedre Scozzafava  
Member of Assembly David Townsend\*

Transportation

Senator Thomas Libous  
Senator Charles Fuschillo, Jr.  
Senator Michael Nozzolio  
Senator Caesar Trunzo  
Senator John Bonacic\*  
Senator John Sabini  
Senator Martin Dilan\*

Member of Assembly David Gantt  
Member of Assembly Richard Brodsky  
Member of Assembly Catherine Nolan  
Member of Assembly Sam Hoyt  
Member of Assembly Ruben Diaz, Jr.\*  
Member of Assembly Patrick Manning  
Member of Assembly Willis Stephens, Jr.\*

Agriculture/Environment/Housing

Senator Carl Marcellino  
Senator John Bonacic  
Senator Patricia McGee  
Senator Mary Lou Rath  
Senator Caesar Trunzo\*  
Senator David Valesky  
Senator Liz Krueger\*

Member of Assembly Vito Lopez  
Member of Assembly Thomas DiNapoli  
Member of Assembly William Magee  
Member of Assembly Audrey Pheffer  
Member of Assembly Felix Ortiz\*  
Member of Assembly Catharine Young  
Member of Assembly Patricia Acampora\*

\*denotes alternate Member

**AGENCY ASSIGNMENTS**  
**SFY 2005-06 BUDGET CONFERENCE SUBCOMMITTEES**

Urban Development Corp.

**General Government/  
Local Assistance**

Adirondack Park Agency  
Alcoholic Beverage Control  
Audit and Control  
Banking  
Division of Budget  
Consumer Protection Board  
State Board of Elections  
Executive Chamber  
Office of General Services  
General State Charges  
Office of the Inspector General  
Insurance Department  
Department of Law  
Temporary State Commission  
    On Lobbying  
Lottery  
Military & Naval Affairs  
Real Property Services  
Regulatory Reform  
Department of State  
Taxation and Finance  
Division of Tax Appeals  
Office for Technology

**Economic Development**

Council on the Arts  
Dept. of Economic Development  
Racing & Wagering Board  
Science, Technology and  
    Academic Research

**Public Protection**

Capital Defenders' Office  
Commission of Correction  
Dept. of Correctional Services  
Crime Victims Board  
Div. of Criminal Justice Svcs.  
Off. of Homeland Security  
Interest on Lawyers Account  
Temp. State Commission  
    on Investigation  
Judicial Commissions  
Military and Naval Affairs  
Division of Parole  
Probation and Correctional  
    Alternatives  
Off. for Prevention of Domestic  
    Violence  
Division of State Police  
Statewide Wireless Network  
Judiciary

**Education**

Education Department

**Transportation**

Dept. of Transportation  
Dept. of Motor Vehicles  
NYS Thruway Authority

**Agriculture/Environment/  
Housing**

Agriculture & Markets  
Environmental Conservation  
Environmental Facilities Corp  
Office of Parks, Recreation and  
    Historic Preservation  
Olympic Regional Dev. Corp.  
Energy Research and  
    Development Authority  
Public Service  
Housing & Community Renewal  
Hudson River Park Trust  
State of NY Mortgage Agency

**Mental Hygiene**

Adv. For Persons w/Disabilities  
Developmental Disabilities  
    Planning Council  
Department of Mental Hygiene  
Office of Mental Health  
Office of Mental Retardation &  
    Developmental Disabilities  
Off. of Alcoholism & Sub. Abuse  
Comm. on Quality of Care for  
    the Mentally Disabled

**Human Services**

Department of Civil Service  
Council on Children & Families  
Off. of Children & Family Svcs  
Office of Employee Relations  
Division of Human Rights  
Department of Labor  
Public Employment Relations Bd.  
Temporary and Disability  
    Assistance  
Veterans' Affairs  
Welfare Inspector General  
Workers' Compensation Board

**Higher Education**

City University of New York  
Higher Education Svcs. Corp.  
State University of New York  
State Univ. Construction Fund

**Health**

Health  
Medicaid  
Aging