

Budget Transparency Working Group Initial Concepts

State/Other	Concept Description	Comments
Louisiana	Three and five-year revenue and expenditures estimates are created with input from several elected officials.	We could include the Governor and four legislative leaders or their designated appointees (GOMB, CoGFA, Approp staffs???)
South Carolina	Agencies with budgets exceeding 1% of the GRF or more must submit estimates of their expenditures for the next three years.	This fits well with the revenue and expenditure long-term estimate concept.
Texas	Provision that requires the state's budget board to publish methodology for calculation alongside its revenue estimates.	Propose that Illinois' Governor must publish a report explaining a balanced budget along with his methods for calculation (which requires more accuracy in addition to adding transparency). This could be used with the current three-year projection requirement.
Multiple States	Half of all states require the Governor and Legislature to agree on a revenue forecast early in the budget process.	House and Senate shall pass an agreed joint resolution declaring the next year's revenue estimate within 48 hours of the Governor's budget address or by March 1, whichever comes first. The revenue estimate may/shall be the average between COGFA and GOMB.
Florida	Requires the Governor's Budget Office to provide a singular report giving estimates of fees, taxes, and any other revenues, which need to be raised to fund the proposed budget request.	This is intended to be an Other Funds transparency initiative. The Governor is currently precluded by law from making revenue increase assumptions for GRF and a select few other funds in his introduced budget.
California	Governor's Budget submission must be given during the first 10 days of each calendar year.	Too often, the budget address is delayed, making the process less transparent. We can include a 10-20-30-day delay for the first budget of a new administration.
Multiple States	Require that Governor to submit a budget bill on the day the budget message is given.	Appropriations bills are filed in the days after the budget address but Budget Implementation Bills are not. Illinois should require BIMP bills to be filed on the day of the budget address along with appropriations bills.
Alabama	The basic appropriations bill is given priority in each legislative session. It must pass each house before any other bill—known as budget isolation.	Would force immediate examination of the budget. Would not allow last minute passage before spring session adjournment.

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Alabama	Governor's office must hold public hearings on proposed budget.	In Illinois, we could require that 5 meetings must be held in various media markets within two weeks after the Governor's budget message.
Oregon	Requires an "Alternate Budget Plan" that's based on 90% funding for each agency. Programs that would be eliminated must be ranked in order of importance and priority on the basis of cost required for benefit obtained.	The establishment and utilization of BFR performance metrics would be a must for this exercise.
Virginia	Governor is required to publish highlights of each proposal in several newspapers all over the state. Legislative committees must hold four regional public hearings before the legislature convenes.	
Virginia	Statute that requires a budget bill summary to be written in comprehensible language for state citizens.	
Vermont	Agencies must include on separate budget forms any requests for programs or activities not previously authorized by law.	Made easily accessible to the public. Websites, print media, etc..
Florida	Appropriations bills must be made available to all elected officials and the public at least 72 hours before passage.	Illinois could do something along the following lines: The appropriations and Budget Implementation bills, whether in the form of a bill or an amendment, must be filed and made public 72 hours before any vote, either in committee or on the floor of either chamber can occur. After final passage of an appropriations or Budget Implementation bill from one chamber, 48 hours must elapse before a vote on the same bill and/or amendment, either in committee or on the floor of the other chamber, can take place.
Multiple States	2-year budget.	Would require longer-term planning. Would include a revenue and expenditure "true-up" in second year.
Massachusetts	The creation of an Office of Commonwealth Performance, Accountability, and Transparency, which is responsible for improving performance and transparency.	Possibly under the Comptroller and/or Auditor General.
Multiple States	Expand Illinois Transparency and Accountability Portal to include three year expenditures, grouped by operational expenses, grants and awards, and capital expenditures by agency.	Multiple other states, specifically Florida, have transparency websites that go far beyond the content on Illinois' current transparency portal.

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