



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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WILLIAM McNAMARA
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MEMORANDUM

To: Agency Heads, Chief Fiscal Officers, and General Counsels
From: William McNamara, Comptroller of the Commonwealth
Date: June 30, 2021
Subject: Fiscal Year 2022 Interim Budget Guidance

Comptroller Memo FY#2022-02

Executive Summary

Chapter 23 of the Acts of 2021, the FY 2022 Interim Budget, has been signed by Governor Baker. This memo offers guidance to agency leadership about operating under an interim budget.

Fiscal Year 2022 will begin tomorrow without a General Appropriation Act (GAA) in place. As such, Governor Baker signed the Fiscal Year 2022 Interim Budget for \$5,410,000,000.

The Commonwealth will operate under this interim budget authorization beginning on Thursday, July 1, 2021. This projected one-month interim budget is expected to cover department incurrence needs through July 31, 2021 or until the enactment of the Fiscal Year 2022 General Appropriation Act, whichever occurs first.

When administering budgets during this time, it is important to follow this guidance in Chapter 23 of the Acts of 2021 and the [Expenditure Classification Handbook](#), [A & F Administrative Bulletin #9](#), and [A & F Administrative Bulletin #24](#):

Constraint by the GAA

Departments must assume, absent explicit instruction to the contrary from the Comptroller, that all activity conducted under an interim budget will be subject retroactively to the conditions and restrictions included in the GAA when eventually signed into law. Departments must not undertake any activities which they have reason to believe will not be supported by the relevant appropriations and other provisions of the GAA. In the absence of a report of a Conference Committee on the budget, and where the

relevant appropriations and other provisions enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives differ materially, departments must act under their best judgment regarding the likely resolution by a Conference Committee, but should favor the most conservative reasonable prediction of the outcome. Departments should consult with A&F prior to making significant commitments which would exceed the lowest of the relevant House 1, House and Senate spending authorizations.

Departments must also recognize that fiscal constraints and policy differences may result in the Governor vetoing or reducing appropriations or other provisions of the GAA as enacted by the General Court when he signs it into law, and must manage obligations accordingly.

It is imperative that all accounts are reviewed for compliance within these limitations.

Departments should proceed with routine business, including processing invoices within nine days to take advantage of any prompt payment discounts that are available.

In the absence of Fiscal Year 2022 budget recommendations from the House of Representatives and the Senate, departments should favor the more conservative of the spending recommendations between the one submitted in House 2 or the spending authorized in the Fiscal Year 2021 GAA. Departments should consult with A&F prior to making significant commitments that would exceed this level.

Departments should direct Fiscal Year 2022 payment override requests, in writing, to Assistant Comptroller Kevin McHugh kevin.mchugh@mass.gov and Jessica Cogswell, Statewide Payments & Tax Reporting Manager, jessica.cogswell@mass.gov, and include in subject line "FY22 Override Request."

For questions regarding the administration of the interim budget and payment processing, please contact Kevin McHugh, Assistant Comptroller, at (617) 973-2235.

For questions regarding broader budgetary and expenditure matters, please contact Assistant Secretary Bran Shim, A&F Budget Director, at (857) 400-5481.

cc: MMARS Liaisons
Payroll Directors
Catharine Hornby, Undersecretary, Executive Office for Administration and Finance
Bran Shim, Budget Director, Executive Office for Administration and Finance
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