

JOINT RULES

2.2—General Appropriations and Related Bills; Definitions

As used in Joint Rule Two, the term:

(1) "Conforming bill" means a bill that amends the Florida Statutes to conform to a general appropriations bill.

(2) "General appropriations bill" means a bill that provides for the salaries of public officers and other current expenses of the state and contains no subject other than appropriations. A bill that contains appropriations that are incidental and necessary solely to implement a substantive law is not included within this term. For the purposes of Joint Rule Two and Section 19(d) of Article III of the Florida Constitution, the Legislature hereby determines that, after a general appropriations bill has been enacted and establishes governing law for a particular fiscal year, a bill considered in any subsequent session that makes net reductions in such enacted appropriations or that makes supplemental appropriations shall not be deemed to be a general appropriations bill unless such bill provides for the salaries of public officers and other current expenses of the state for a subsequent fiscal year.

(3) "Implementing bill" means a bill, effective for one fiscal year, implementing a general appropriations bill.

(4)(a) "Appropriations project" means a specific appropriation, proviso, or item on a conference committee spreadsheet agreed to by House and Senate conferees providing funding for:

1. A local government, private entity, or privately operated program, wherein the specific appropriation, proviso, or item on a conference committee spreadsheet specifically names the local government, private entity, or privately operated program or the appropriation, proviso, or item is written in such a manner as to describe a particular local government, private entity, or privately operated program;

2. A specific transportation facility that was not part of the Department of Transportation's 5-year work program submitted pursuant to s. 339.135, Florida Statutes;

3. An education fixed capital outlay project that was not submitted pursuant to s. 1013.60 or s. 1013.64, Florida Statutes, unless funds for the specific project were appropriated by the Legislature in a prior year and additional funds are needed to complete the project as originally proposed;

4. A specified program, research initiative, institute, center, or similar entity at a specific state college or university, unless recommended by the Board of Governors or the State Board of Education in their Legislative Budget Request; or

5. A local water project.

(b) The term does not include an appropriation that:

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1. Is specifically authorized by statute;
2. Is part of a statewide distribution to local governments; or
3. Was recommended by a commission, council, or other similar entity created in statute to make annual funding recommendations, provided that such appropriation does not exceed the amount of funding recommended by the commission, council, or other similar entity.

2.3—Budget Conference Committee Rules

- (1) For an appropriations project to be included in a conference committee report:
 - (a) The appropriations project must be included in a bill or an amendment placed into a budget conference; and
 - (b) Information required by subsections (2) and (3) relating to the appropriations project must have been in writing and published online prior to the passage by that chamber of the bill or amendment which was placed into a budget conference.
- (2) The information collected must include:
 - (a) A descriptive title of the appropriations project.
 - (b) The date of the submission.
 - (c) The name of the submitting member.
 - (d) The most recent year in which the appropriations project received state funding, if applicable.
 - (e) Whether the most recent funding for the project had been vetoed.
 - (f) The amount of the nonrecurring request.
 - (g) The amount of funding received in the prior year on a recurring or nonrecurring basis.
 - (h) In what agency the project is best placed and whether the agency has been contacted.
 - (i) The name of the organization or entity receiving the funds as well as a point of contact for the organization or entity.
 - (j) The name of the registered lobbyist of the entity requesting the appropriations project.
 - (k) Whether the organization to receive the funds is a for-profit entity, a not-for-profit entity, a local entity, a state university or college, or other type of organization.
 - (l) The specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds requested.
 - (m) The activities and services that will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds.

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(n) Specific descriptions of how the funds will be expended, including a description and the amounts to be expended on: administrative costs, itemized to include the salary of the executive director or project head, other salaries and benefits, expenses, and consultants, contractors, or studies; operational costs, itemized to include salaries and benefits, expenses, and consultants, contractors, or studies; and fixed capital outlay, itemized to include land purchase, planning, engineering, construction, and renovation.

(o) The owner of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding, and the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

(p) A description of the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project, if applicable.

(q) A description of the target population to be served and the number of individuals to be served by the appropriations project.

(r) A description of the specific benefit or outcome, including the methodology by which this outcome will be measured.

(s) The amount and percentage of federal, local, and state funds, excluding the funds requested for the appropriations project, or other matching funds available for the appropriations project.

(t) How much additional nonrecurring funding is anticipated to be requested in future years by amount per year.

(u) The suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract.

(3) With respect to an appropriations project that is also a local water project, the information collected must also include:

(a) Whether alternative state funding such as the Waste Water Revolving Loan, Drinking Water Revolving Loan, Small Community Waste Water Drinking grant, or other funding has been requested.

(b) Whether the project is for a financially disadvantaged community, as defined in chapter 62-552, Florida Administrative Code; a financially disadvantaged municipality; a rural area of critical economic concern; or a rural area of opportunity, as defined in s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes.

(c) Whether the construction status is shovel-ready.

(d) The percentage of construction completed and the estimated completion date.

(4) Each chamber must collect the required information described in subsections (2) and (3) in the form and manner prescribed by that chamber.

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(5) The portion of an appropriations project which was funded with recurring funds in the most recently enacted general appropriations act is exempt from subsections (1), (2) and (3).

(6) An appropriations project may only be funded with nonrecurring funds, except that the portion of an appropriations project which was funded with recurring funds as provided in subsection (5) may be continued with or without additional nonrecurring funds.

(7) The nonrecurring funding of an appropriations project in the conference committee report may be less than, equal to, or greater than the funding for the appropriations project as originally committed to the conference committee.

(8) An appropriations project that was not included in either chamber's bill in accordance with subsections (1), (2) and (3) may not be included in a conference report.

(9)(a) To be included in a conference committee report, all appropriations projects, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), must be clearly identified in the bill or amendment that will be considered by a conference committee and in any conference report.

(b) An appropriations project funded with recurring funds in the most recently enacted general appropriation act that is not appropriated any additional funds is exempt from the provisions of paragraph (a).

(10) The conference committee must allow for public testimony regarding appropriations projects at each noticed meeting.

(11) Nothing in this rule shall limit either chamber's ability to apply a stricter standard to its own bills prior to the commencement of conference proceedings. This Joint Rule applies to all conference committee reports related to the General Appropriations Act and supersedes either chamber's rules that are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Joint Rule.