

# Orientation to Revised Policies Details Report

## Revised Policies Details

### 1 → Personal Income

#### 1 → General Fund

3

4

2 → Revenue Components	Governor FY 17	Legislative FY 17	Difference FY 17
January Consensus	9,513,900,000	9,513,900,000	-
April Consensus Update	-	(246,400,000)	(246,400,000)
Policy Estimates and Updates	(26,100,000)	(3,000,000)	23,100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,487,800,000</b>	<b>9,264,500,000</b>	<b>(223,300,000)</b>

### 5 → April Consensus Update

	Governor FY 17	Legislative FY 17	Difference FY 17
5a →	-	(246,400,000)	(246,400,000)

5b → The April Consensus estimates for FY 17 are lower than the January Consensus by \$246.4 million, due to the following: A) a net \$389.1 million decrease in the FY 16 estimate which effectively lowered the FY 17 revenue base, B) a \$200 million increase in the FY 17 revenue base which is the estimated revenue impact of behavioral changes on the part of taxpayers in FY 16 in reaction to federal tax changes, and C) a reduction in the aggregate FY 17 growth rate from 5.9% to 5.3% (consisting of a reduction in the withholding growth rate from 3.7% to 3.0%, and the estimated and final payments growth rate from 9.0% to 8.9%).

### 6 → Policy Revisions

#### 6a → Extend Brewery Tax Credit

	Governor FY 17	Legislative FY 17	Difference FY 17
6 →	(3,000,000)	(3,000,000)	-

6 → **Background:** The Brewery Tax Credit program provides an Income Tax credit equal to 25% of an eligible cash investment of not less than \$25,000 in local craft breweries. The program is scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2016.

6d → **Governor:** Extend the Brewery Tax Credit program through July 1, 2018. Section 7 of SB 1000, 'AAC Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget,' extends the tax credit and establishes a recapture provision applying to specific circumstances.

6 → **Legislative:** Same as Governor, except the recapture provision is not enacted. Section 600 of PA 16-2, the FY 17 Revised Budget, enacts this provision.

## **Explanation**

(1) This section indicates: (1a) the name of the revenue source and (1b) the fund to which that the revenue source belongs. This section includes information on the General Fund (GF) and Special Transportation Fund (STF) which together comprise over 98% of total state revenue collections.

(2) This summarizes the components of the revenue estimate process including: (a) the January Consensus (technical) Estimate, which is the starting point that the Governor must use for his budget; (b) the April Consensus Estimate, which is a technical update to the January Consensus Estimate that is the basis for the adopted budget; and (c) Policy Estimates and Updates, which indicates the impact of policy changes proposed by the Governor or in the adopted budget. (See below for a further explanation of Consensus Revenue Estimates.)

(3) This column indicates the values of the components of the revenue estimate in the Governor's budget proposal, including: (a) the January Consensus Estimate baseline figure and (b) the revenue impact of the Governor's proposed policy changes.

(4) This column gives the values of the components of the revenue estimate for the adopted budget, including: (a) the January Consensus Estimate baseline figure, (b) the April Consensus Estimate adjustment to the January figure, and (c) the revenue impact of the adopted budget's policy changes.

(5) This section provides information about the difference between the April Consensus adjustment and the January baseline estimate. (5a) shows the value of the difference and (5b) is OFA's textual explanation of the difference. The April adjustment is a technical update that does not reflect any policy changes. The legislature must use this adjustment when formulating the adopted budget.

(6) This section provides information on all policy changes proposed by either the Governor or in the adopted budget: (6a) indicates the title of a policy change; (6b) shows the estimated revenue impact of the policy change; (6c) provides a textual explanation of relevant background information; (6d) is a textual description of the Governor's proposed policy change, including legislative, statutory or other references; and (6e) is a textual description of the adopted change, including legislative, statutory or other references.

## **Consensus Revenue Estimates**

The Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) and Office of Policy and Management (OPM) jointly issue consensus revenue estimates in November, January and April of each year<sup>3</sup>. The estimates cover a total of five years, including the current biennium and the following three fiscal years. If there is no agreement between OFA and OPM, the Office of the State Comptroller is required to issue consensus estimates that are: (1) equal to the estimates provided by either OFA or OPM or (2) between the OFA and OPM estimates.

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<sup>3</sup>CGS 2-36c governs the process of Consensus revenue estimates.

The Governor and the legislature are required to use the most recent GF and STF consensus estimates to prepare their respective budgets. The Governor<sup>4</sup> uses the January consensus estimates for the GF and STF budget proposals presented in February and the legislature uses the April consensus forecast to formulate the enacted budget.<sup>5</sup>

Although OFA and OPM are required to agree on the same bottom line consensus estimate for each source of GF and TF revenue, the offices may use different assumptions about growth and the impact of policy changes to reach those bottom line figures. The consensus revenue estimate information in this book for the GF and STF show only the assumptions used by OFA to reach its bottom line consensus estimate for each revenue source.

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<sup>4</sup>CGS 4-74 requires the Governor to base his budget document, which is issued in February of each year, upon the most recent consensus revenue estimate available at the time.

<sup>5</sup>CGS 2-35 governs the adoption of revenue estimates by the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee in support of the state budget act.