

Sec. E.100.1 32 V.S.A. § 306a is added to read:

§ 306a. PURPOSE OF THE STATE BUDGET

(a) Purpose of the State Budget. The state budget, consistent with Article 7 of Vermont's constitution, should "be instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community..." The state budget should be designed to address the needs of the people of Vermont in a way that advances human dignity and equity.

(b) Spending and revenue policies will seek to promote economic well being among the people of Vermont, and foster a vibrant economy. Integral to achieving the purpose of the state budget is continuous evaluation of the raising and spending of public funds by systems of outcome measurement based on indicators that measure success in accomplishing the purposes of the state budget.

(c) Spending and revenue policies will reflect the public policy goals established in state law and recognize every person's need for health, housing, dignified work, education, food, social security, and a healthy environment.

(d) As consistent with state law and in conjunction with the federal government, the budget will reflect support for economic development, public safety, transportation and other infrastructure needs.

(e) Revenue measures shall also be based on the principles of sustainability and stability. The Administration shall develop budget and revenue proposals as part of a transparent and accountable process with direct and meaningful participation from Vermont residents.

Sec. E.100.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CURRENT SERVICES

(a) Public participation. The administration will develop a process for public participation in the development of budget goals, as well as general prioritization and evaluation of spending and revenue initiatives. This process shall begin by October 1, 2012.

(b) Current services. The administration shall develop and publish annually for public review as part of the budget submission process a current services budget, providing the public with an estimate of what the current level of services is projected to cost in the next fiscal year. The initial current services budget shall be submitted with the administration's fiscal year 2014 budget proposal.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2012