

April 2017

Texas' 2018-19 Government Budget Comparison

The Conservative Texas Budget (CTB) limits the Legislature's increase in appropriations for the 2018-19 biennium to no more than population growth plus inflation:



As the budget heads to the conference committee for final negotiations before consideration by both chambers, the passed versions of SB 1 by the Senate and the House indicate that they can keep appropriations below the CTB limits:

Type of Funds	2018-19 CTB Limits	2018-19 Senate SB 1	2018-19 House SB 1
State Funds	\$147.5 B	\$145.2 B	\$145.9 B
All Funds	\$218.5 B	\$217.7 B	\$218.1 B

However, the House version of SB 1 uses an accounting measure to delay the appropriation of \$1.9 billion in general revenue for public schools until the 2020-21 biennium. If this is accounted for, their version would exceed the CTB limits:

Type of Funds	2018-19 CTB Limits	2018-19 House SB 1	Amt. Above CTB
State Funds	\$147.5 B	\$147.8 B	\$300 M
All Funds	\$218.5 B	\$220.0 B	\$1.5 B

Both the Senate and the House have employed various measures to work around limits on spending. When the SB 1 conference committee report is finally adopted by the Legislature in May, the Foundation will include any alternative accounting measures like the one above into its scoring of the budget against the Conservative Texas Budget.