

BUDGET LETTER

		NUMBER: 26-18
SUBJECT:	BUDGET CHANGE PROPOSAL TEMPLATE AND INSTRUCTIONS	DATE ISSUED: August 10, 2026
REFERENCES:	BLs 26-05, 26-06, 26-07, 26-10 AND 26-16	SUPERSEDES: BL 25-18

TO: Agency Secretaries
Department Directors
Department Budget and Accounting Officers
Department of Finance Budget and Accounting Staff

FROM: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

This Budget Letter (BL) provides revised forms and instructions to departments for the preparation of regular Budget Change Proposals (BCPs). The documents referenced in this BL can be found on the following Finance webpages:

- [Budget Forms](#)
- [FI\\$Cal Resources for Budget](#)

Finance has issued separate instructions regarding general 2027-28 budget preparation guidelines and deadlines (BL 26-05), Capital Outlay BCP instructions and deadlines (BL 26-07), and policy guidelines regarding the criteria for Budget Policy (BL 26-10).

I. Glossary Relevant to this BL

BR = Budget Requests. These are issues identifying changes to dollar amounts and/or positions for any fiscal year in Hyperion.

BU = Business Unit. This four-digit number is equivalent to an organization code/entity.

Category = An account code (AC) in the Chart of Accounts.

CY – BY4 = Current year through budget year plus four.

ENY = Enactment year (formerly Year of Appropriation).

FTEs = Full-Time Equivalents or Positions. These terms are used interchangeably.

RTLs = Revenues, Transfers, and Loans.

II. BCP Package

Departments must submit BCP packages via email to their Finance Budget Analyst and Principal Program Budget Analyst. The packages should include the following information:

1. **DF-46 BCP Cover Sheet:** A Word version of the BCP Cover Sheet and a signed copy of the BCP Cover Sheet with appropriate department and agency electronic signatures.

2. **BCP Narrative:** A Word document providing the full explanation of the request. If the proposal requires a change to existing legislation or new legislation in order to implement, departments must include the proposed Budget Bill language or trailer bill language at the time of submission as an attachment. If your proposal affects another department or a fund that is administered by another department, please submit a letter of concurrence from the impacted department.
3. **Fiscal Details:** Departments should enter or upload fiscal information directly into Hyperion. Departments must enter all BCP BR(s) into the **GB Dept Working** version in Hyperion and copy the completed validated BCP BR(s) to the **GB Exchange** version; and inform their Finance Budget Analyst once the BCP BR is available in the GB Exchange version for review. Please ensure you submit complete fiscal details as part of the BCP package at the time of BCP submission to Finance.
4. **BCP Report:** Generate and provide a Hyperion "BCP Report" (Word version). The BCP Report is a Business Intelligence (BI) report in Hyperion.

Later in the fall cycle, instructions will be issued to all departments regarding submission of the approved original copies of the signed BCPs to be included in the Governor's Budget. Approved BCPs will be posted on Finance's website and must meet current ADA accessibility standards as set forth by the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0). Departments will be responsible for verifying and certifying that the final documents meet the WCAG 2.0 accessibility standards prior to submission to their Finance Budget Analyst. Please refer to the [DF-46 BCP Form Submission Instructions](#) for additional information on accessibility checks and verification.

III. BCP Forms, BCP Reports, and BCP Upload Template

As specified in Section II above, all BCPs for 2027-28 **must** include the DF-46 Form, which includes a BCP Cover Sheet, BCP narrative section, and a BCP Report from Hyperion.

DF-46 BCP Cover Sheet

For details on how to fill out the [DF-46 Form](#), please refer to the [DF-46 BCP instructions](#).

BCP Narrative Section

The BCP narrative must indicate how the BCP is consistent with the policy guidelines as outlined in the 2027-28 Budget Policy BL (BL 26-10). For more details on the narrative section, please refer to the DF-46 BCP instructions.

Fiscal Detail—BCP Report and BCP Upload Template

Departments are required to create BCP BRs and either enter or upload all necessary budget information directly into Hyperion, including expenditures, position summaries, position change requests, reimbursements, and revenues, etc., as applicable. Departments with a high volume of unique entries may choose to utilize an upload template to upload data.

Various enhancements continue to be made in Hyperion; therefore, departments using upload templates must use the latest version distributed through the Budget Operations mailing list (after Governor's Budget in late January/early February and after Budget Enactment in late July/early August). Department staff may also contact their Finance Budget Analyst if they have questions about the latest upload templates. The updated templates reflect the latest [chart of account codes](#), program information, and correctly show Fiscal Year 2027 as the year of budget being built (YBB).

Departments must use the BCP Report from Hyperion to provide fiscal details. Separate tabs of the BCP upload template capture detailed information for every affected item, program, and category of expenditure, consistent with the [updated chart of accounts](#). The forms are color coded as follows:

Blue color cells:	Select from drop down menu.
Salmon color cells:	User input. No drop-down menu.
White color cells:	Update as necessary.
Purple color cells:	Do not modify. Pre-populated values.

Please note: When updating BCP upload templates, **do not delete or insert new rows** in any tabs as this corrupts the Checklist tab. In the event users exceed the preset rows, copy one or more of the blue colored rows and paste the information into a new white row(s) below the blue preset rows. Finance requires a clean Checklist tab for accurate uploads into Hyperion. If rows are deleted or inserted, the crossties in the Checklist tab will not work and the department will be required to prepare a new upload template. Please first reference the, "[Uploading Budget Templates in Hyperion Job Aid](#)" and then work with your Finance Budget Analyst if you need assistance with the upload template.

The following provides a summary of the required data for each of the tabs in the latest upload template. The same descriptions apply to direct entries into Hyperion.

- a. **Checklist**—The Checklist tab has a crosstie page to check various issues, such as duplicate rows, invalid points-of-view, position and dollar tie points, and correct BR naming conventions. Prior to uploading or submitting an upload template to Finance, ensure all "No Issues" fields are **green** and that there are no **red** fields.
- b. **Checklist Details**—No action is needed by departments. This tab is the Checklist tab's crosstie page.
- c. **Summary**—No action is needed by departments. This tab provides a snapshot of total positions, personal services, and operating expenses and equipment, as well as total state operations and local assistance expenditures broken down by fund source.
- d. **Budget Request Details**—Departments should note the following:
 1. The **BR Name** must use a unique naming convention to post accurate detail in Hyperion. See [Budget Request Naming Convention in Hyperion](#) for details on naming conventions.

2. The **BR Title** should be meaningful, short, and succinct. Capitalization should remain consistent within the BR Title. See [Common Baseline Adjustment Titles](#) for a list of commonly used baseline adjustments and the suggested titles to use.
 3. Enter **Request ID, Version, Year, and Entity**. Request ID is the 4-digit BR identifier number assigned in Hyperion when a BR is created.
- e. **Workload Measures**—Provide workload metrics associated with the program, beginning with the past five years through the CY. Specify how the requested resources are projected to impact the related workload for the affected out years (BY through BY4). These are the number of units of workload (e.g., inquiries responded to, backlog reduced, applications processed, etc.).
- f. **Program Budget Measures**—Provide a five-year resource history of the program (unless it is a new program proposal).
- g. **Position Change Request**—Specify the following information:
1. **Job Code**—The class code and classification title.
 2. **Start Date**—Only populate if the position will not be filled on July 1, 2027, such as a January start date.
 3. **Proposed FTEs**—The number of positions requested. Enter total positions for the affected years (CY through BY4, if applicable). Positions entered on the Position Change Request tab must tie to the total positions entered on the Position Summary tab(s).
 4. **Salaries and Wages**—The salaries and wages for all the position(s) in the same classification. Enter total dollars for the affected years (CY through BY4, if applicable). Salaries and wages entered on the Position Change Request tab must tie to the total salaries and wages (category code 510XXXX) entered on the Expenditure tab(s).
- h. **Position Summary**—Specify the Item, ENY, Program, and related salaries and wages categories of expenditure associated with each position. Enter the total number of positions for the affected years (CY through BY4, if applicable). Positions in CY through BY4 in the Position Summary tabs must tie to the total proposed positions in CY through BY4 in the Position Change Request tab for the overall BR.
- i. **Expenditures** (level of spending authority)—Specify the Item, ENY, Program, and category of expenditure for each unique combination of funding needed to support the BCP. See [Account/Category Codes Available in Hyperion](#) for categories of expenditure available in Hyperion. Departments must update the "BY – BY4 Expenditures" tab to include the amounts projected for each of those years. Departments should reference the [Active Item List](#) to ensure the Item is valid and the appropriate ENY is used.

If an Item is not available from the drop-down menu, you must contact your Finance Budget Analyst (please do not manually add item numbers as these may not be valid items in Hyperion and will cause incorrect report totals).

- j. **Revenues, Transfers, and Loans**—If the BCP proposes new revenues (either an increase to an existing revenue source or proposed new revenues, a new revenue transfer, and/or a new loan), departments must either key the information or use the RTL upload template to enter the information into an RTL BR type in Hyperion.

Departments must update the “BY – BY4 Revenues” tab to include revenues projected for each of those years. For transfers and loans, if both sides of the transaction do not fall within the same BU, departments must coordinate, and the owner of the other BU must carry the appropriate side of the transaction. Departments must notify their Finance Budget Analyst of the other BU’s transaction.

IV. Unique BR Naming Convention

Departments are required to create a BR for each BCP or RTL adjustment. Each BR Name (e.g., 0250-011-BCP-2027-GB) must include the following components:

- a. 4-digit BU number.
- b. Unique three-digit sequencer number that matches the last three digits of the associated BR identifier number in Hyperion. For example, BR identifier: BR **0011** with BR Name: 0250-**011**-BCP-2027-GB.
- c. BR type (“BCP” for expenditures or “RTL” for revenues, transfers, or loans).
- d. First part of the fiscal year. For example, use 2027 for the development of the 2027-28 budget cycle.
- e. Point-in-time when the issue originated (“GB” for Governor's Budget).

See [Budget Request Naming Convention in Hyperion](#) for additional information regarding the required naming convention.

V. Use of Items in Upload Templates and Data Entry Forms

Each expenditure and RTL requires a three-part item consisting of a BU number, a reference number, and a fund number. For example, if BU 0250 had a proposed expenditure and/or revenue adjustment to the General Fund, the expenditure item would be “0250-XXX-0001” and the revenue item would be “0250-787-0001.” For a list of reference numbers and the corresponding character code, please utilize the [Reference Numbers](#) document. Please note that for RTLs, the specific reference numbers to use depends on the type of RTL as follows:

- Revenue: 787
- Transfer: 788
- Loan: 789

VI. New Items and Invalid Items

All valid items that existed in Hyperion as of the 2026 Budget Act, as well as those already pre-created for the 2027-28 budget cycle during the Hyperion rollover process, will be posted on Finance's website (see the [Active Item List](#)). If any new items are needed, departments should provide their Finance Budget Analyst with a completed [New Item Request Form](#) prior to BCP submission to Finance. Otherwise, the new items will not be available in Hyperion. **Departments must run the "Invalid (in Red) & Valid Items with Dollars" FR report from Hyperion to verify all their items are valid for use.**

Enactment Year (ENY)

For new one-year appropriations, use the following:

- ENY 2026 for current year.
- ENY 2027 for budget year and out years.

For multiyear or continuously-appropriated spending requests, utilize the [Active Item List](#) or consult with your Finance Budget Analyst for assistance.

VII. Reimbursements

Reimbursements are tracked under a non-budget act item, utilizing Fund 0995, and specific spending category code(s) of 5XXXXXX. This is similar to how reimbursements were treated and recorded in the legacy budget systems. Please refer to Finance's [Treatment of Reimbursements](#) instructions for more detail on how to properly reflect reimbursements in Hyperion.

VIII. Rounding to "000" for Dollars

For budget purposes, do not reflect dollars below \$1,000. This level of precision is unnecessary and creates additional workload and reconciliation problems. All dollars should be rounded to the nearest thousand and end with "000" (e.g., \$2,000 and not \$1,992) to avoid rounding issues in Hyperion. **Users must only enter dollar amounts into Hyperion that end with "000."**

IX. Rounding to Tenth Decimal for Positions

For budget purposes, do not reflect FTEs beyond the tenth decimal position. This level of precision is unnecessary and creates additional workload and reconciliation problems. All FTEs should be rounded to the nearest tenth of a position (e.g., 1.75 FTEs should be rounded to 1.8 FTEs) to avoid rounding issues in Hyperion. **Users must not enter FTE amounts into Hyperion beyond the tenth decimal position.**

X. Additional Resources Related to FI\$Cal

Finance maintains, updates, and expands the information often on the [FI\\$Cal Resources for Budget](#) page on its website to provide a convenient location for relevant FI\$Cal resources.

Departments should continue to check and utilize the information on this page for budget reference materials. Please also refer to the [Uploading Budget Templates in Hyperion Job Aid](#) for information on how to upload data into Hyperion. Additional instructional material related to Hyperion can be found in FI\$Cal's [ServiceNow](#) and FI\$Cal's [Learning Center](#) by searching for the keyword, "Hyperion."

If you have any questions about this BL or budget/policy questions regarding the use of Hyperion, please contact your Finance Budget Analyst. For Hyperion login/password issues or other technical system questions, please contact the FI\$Cal Service Center (<https://fiscal.ca.gov/user-support/fiscal-service-center/>).

/s/ Thomas Todd

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