Budget (Scotland) Bill

Bill Number: SP Bill 9  
Introduced on: 19 January 2012  
Introduced by: John Swinney  
Passed: 8 February 2012  
Royal Assent: 14 March 2012

Passage of the Bill
The Budget (Scotland) Bill [SP Bill 9] was introduced on 19 January 2012. The Stage 1 debate took place on 25 January 2012, the Finance Committee considered the Bill at Stage 2 on 1 February 2012 and the Bill was passed by the Parliament on 8 February 2012.

Purpose and objectives of the Bill
The Budget Bill is the final stage in the annual budget process and this Bill gives parliamentary authority for spending in Scotland for financial year 2012-13. The budget process is intended to allow the Parliament’s subject committees the opportunity to comment on the Scottish Government’s spending plans prior to the annual budget being agreed. The expectation is for the subject committees to play an active role in scrutinising and making recommendations on spending priorities.

Provisions of the Bill
The Bill authorises approximately £31bn of cash expenditure by the Scottish Government and its associated bodies, other organisations whose core funding is centrally provided (e.g. local authorities and health boards), the Forestry Commissioners, the Food Standards Agency, the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body and Audit Scotland.

The Bill received royal assent on 14 March 2012.