



Budget (Scotland) (No 5) Bill

Bill Number:	SP Bill 62
Introduced on:	20 January 2011
Introduced by:	John Swinney
Passed:	9 February 2011
Royal Assent:	16 March 2011

Passage of the Bill

The Budget (Scotland) (No 5) Bill [SP Bill 62] was introduced on 20 January 2011. The Stage 1 debate took place on 26 January 2011, the Finance Committee considered the Bill at Stage 2 on 1 February 2011 and the Bill was passed by the Parliament on 9 February 2011.

Purpose and objectives of the Bill

The Budget Bill is the final stage in the annual budget process. This Bill gives parliamentary authority for spending in Scotland for financial year 2011-12. 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 that the subject committees should have an active role in scrutinising and making recommendations on spending priorities. However, this year's process was truncated. Due to the UK Spending Review being published in October, and the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2011-12 in November, committee scrutiny of the Government's spending plans took place from November 2010 to January 2011.

Provisions of the Bill

The Bill authorises approximately £30bn 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 16 March 2011.