

BUDGET UPDATE FEBRUARY 2, 2012

The House Appropriations Committee passed the various budget bills mostly along party lines. There was a protracted discussion about prison privatization, but the amendments offered to prevent or delay privatization failed. The House budget now moves to the full chamber. A vote is expected next week.

Senator Negrón opened the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services Appropriations with the announcement that the amount of general revenue cut for the subcommittee has been reduced from \$850 million to \$390 million.

According to Senator Negrón this makes it more likely that the large budget reimbursement providers, such as hospitals and nursing homes will not have to take a payment cut in the Senate budget. The Chairman's budget will be released next Wednesday and the committee will vote on the proposal by the end of the week. The rest of the committee meeting was public testimony from various interest groups.