

Agency Certification Instructions – SL 2025-89 (Continuing Budget Operations)

Preface

This document provides:

1. A high-level overview of the certification process;
2. Step-by-step instructions for certification for changes in [SL 2025-89](#); and
3. A checklist for each task in the certification process.

Following these instructions closely will help to expedite the budget certification process and minimize the need to revisit tasks and/or revise entries.

Timeline

August 13	Certification Instructions issued to agencies.
August 25	Deadline for Agencies to complete all items on the Agency Certification Checklist.

Process Overview

Following the passage of appropriations bills, agencies work with their OSBM Budget Development analyst to certify budget adjustments. Budget certification is done in the NC Integrated Budget Information System (IBIS) and will interface with the North Carolina Financial System (NCFS). Agencies submit **certification entries**, which reflect adjustments (+/-) that appropriation bills made to the existing base budget. OSBM analysts review entries to ensure they are correct. When all entries have been approved and interfaced with NCFS, OSBM analysts generate a **BD 307**, which is the official certification report and reflect changes as enacted by the General Assembly.

Because Section 1.1 of SL 2025-89 appropriates the base budget and [SL 2025-26](#) previously appropriated funds in FY 2025-26, OSBM will load the base budget into NCFS *before* certification. **Agencies will be able to submit certification entries as OSBM loads the base budget, but OSBM will not approve them until all checks are complete to ensure accuracy.** As a result, BD 307s in IBIS and BD 701s in NCFS will show both the base budget and any previously certified funds from SL 2025-26 *before* agencies' submitted changes in IBIS are approved. The certification process will then add any appropriations from SL 2025-89 to those totals.

Step by Step Guide for Budget Certification:

- 1) **IBIS.** Agencies and OSBM will use IBIS to certify SL 2025-89.
 - A. The direct link to the IBIS system is <http://ibis.nc.gov/ibis-webapp/IBIS.html>.
 - B. If you have system access issues, submit an IBIS Help Desk Ticket at <https://bit.ly/IBISHelp>.
 - C. For detailed instructions on how to use IBIS certification forms, see the [Operating Certification user guide](#) in the Job Aids section on OSBM's website (under the 'Certification' tab).

- 2) **Enacted Legislation.** Work with your OSBM Budget Development analyst to review SL 2025-89 to ensure the agency is certifying all items; balancing appropriation and allocation totals; and that items are certified in the correct Budget Codes and Budget Funds.

- 3) **NCFS Chart of Account Maintenance.**
 - A. **Important:** Identify any Chart of Account (COA) **Interfund** segments needed and move forward with establishing Budget Funds and corresponding Interfund segments as soon as possible. Please share and/or request Interfund segments needed for certification with your budget development analyst as early in the process as possible. Many agencies have experienced delays related to creating and sharing these segments during previous certification processes.
 - B. **OSBM leads the process for creating new Budget Codes and Budget Funds.** Identify any new Budget Codes and Budget Funds needed and submit these requests **to OSBM** for approval via IBIS.
 - C. Agencies will also need to identify any **new chart of account segments** needed outside of Budget Codes and Funds required for certification. **OSC leads this process:**
 - D. Agencies will need to submit a spreadsheet template to OSC for changes to Agency Management Unit, Agency Program, and Project that are not currently being used.
 1. The template can be found here: [NCFS COA Maintenance | NC OSC](#)
 2. New NCFS Account requests are submitted via [this form](#) and follow the standard review process with the OSC Financial Reporting team and COA Committee.
 - E. Agencies that have appropriations related to Hurricane Helene recovery, such as the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, should refer to Appendix A about NCFS structure.

- 4) **Statewide, OSBM, Negative, and Capital Reserves** – Some appropriations may come from statewide and OSBM reserves. Generally, agencies should use the statewide account number **48100001** – Agency Operating Transfer for all transfers received from new statewide reserves. For transfers from the Information Technology Reserve, agencies should use the account **48061000** – IT Reserve-Transfer In.

An interfund number is required for transfers from these reserves. For statewide reserves, these usually start with the Budget Code and end with a zero. A list of interfund numbers for statewide reserves in SL 2025-89 is below:

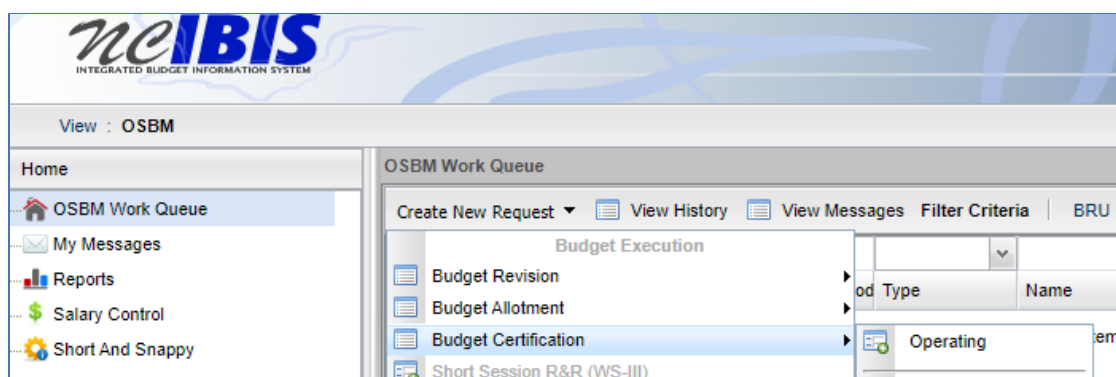
Reserve Name	Interfund
Stabilization and Inflation Reserve	198140
Information Technology Reserve	198010

Section 2G.1 of SL 2025-89 includes vacant position cuts for the Department of Public Instruction, Department of Environmental Quality, and the Department of Information Technology. To certify these reductions, these agencies should certify a *negative reserve* equal to the amounts included in the bill. Agencies should use **57100137** – Reserve-Position Cuts to certify this negative reserve.

Agencies will then fill the reserve through Type 11 revisions that eliminate positions as Section 2G.1 prescribes.

Part V of SL 2025-89 appropriates capital funding from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (SCIF). As in previous years, OSBM will first certify SCIF funding to Budget Code 24001. SCIF. Agencies will then receive the capital funding appropriated in this section of the bill for existing projects via Type 11 revision. Please contact your OSBM capital analyst with questions about individual projects.

- 5) **Certifying Allocations and Cash Balance Transfers.** The enacted bill may appropriate funds to an agency to be allocated to other state agencies and non-state entities. In these cases, the appropriation and subsequent allocations are certified.
 - A. The certification entry for an agency receiving state appropriation to be transferred should include the transfers out to other entities receiving the allocations in the agency's expenditure accounts.
 - B. A state agency receiving an allocation must also submit a certification entry certifying this allocation in its receipt accounts.
 - C. This same principle applies to cash balance transfers —one agency must certify the transfer out of the cash balance in its expenditure accounts and the receiving entity must certify the transfer in of these funds in its receipt accounts.
 - D. All transfers in NCFS require the interfund segment. Agencies should work with your OSBM development analyst to verify the correct reciprocal Budget Fund needed.
- 6) **Certification Forms.** Agencies create new certification forms in IBIS for all items.
 - A. Once you have logged into IBIS, from the Work Queue page, click on 'Create New Request', selecting the 'Budget Certification' and then the 'Operating' options.



- 7) **New Certification Form – Popup.** When you create a new certification request, IBIS will bring up a popup screen. Choose the appropriate option from the dropdown menus for Session Law, Department/University, BRU, and Budget Code.
 - A. For Committee Report Item Title, enter the section title from the bill associated with the item and R or NR, depending on whether the item is recurring or non-recurring.

- Example: For funds appropriated to the Department of Public Safety in Section 2D.2 of SL 2025-89, the title would be 'Support North Carolina National Guard Readiness Centers - R'.)
 - B. Choose the Budget Adjustment Type from the dropdown menu.
 - C. Select Yes or No to answer the question about whether the item is recurring. **If an item has both recurring and non-recurring adjustments, prepare a separate certification entry for each.**
- 8) **Basic Information Tab.** IBIS carries forward the information from the popup screen. Fill out the remaining spaces of the Basic Information tab.
- A. For the Committee Report Item Number, enter the Section Number. Continuing the Public Safety example above, since this change was in SL 2025-89, the Committee Report Item Number would be '2D.2(a)'.
 - B. For the Committee Report Item Narrative, please cite the appropriations provision. In this example, it would refer to Section 2D.2(a) and copy the language appropriating the funds.
- 9) **Position Tab.** OSBM encourages agencies to create and abolish positions as part of certification on the Positions Tab.
- A. The Fiori HR/Payroll System assigns position numbers for new positions when the agency initiates a workflow action (PCR). Budget personnel should coordinate with their agency HR personnel to ensure new positions and abolished positions are established or eliminated in both the IBIS and Fiori HR/Payroll systems. If your HR department will not be able to provide position numbers in time to complete certification, consult your OSBM development analyst.
 - B. Agency budget and HR personnel should coordinate when establishing new positions to ensure their PCR entries match their respective certification entries. Specifically, note that position number, position name, effective date (7/1/2025 in most cases), and annual salary need to match. Please work with your HR Directors to ensure all new positions have an effective date of 7/1/2025 unless otherwise stated in legislation.
 - C. Agencies should certify their salary and benefit adjustments within the appropriate reserve account listed below.
 1. **57206000** – State Retirement System Contributions
 2. **57208000** – State Health Plan
 - D. Use the **FY 2024-25 retirement and health plan rates**, provided below, when establishing new positions established, and not the new rates found in in SL 2025-89. After certification, agencies will use the Reserves for Benefits to increase contributions for all positions, including new positions, to FY 2025-26 contribution rates via budget revision.

Per SL 2024-55, the employer contribution rates for FY 2024-25 are:

Employer Contribution Rates for New Positions					
	TSERS	LEO	ORP	CJRS	LRS
Retirement	16.79%	16.79%	6.84%	35.96%	19.32%
Retiree Health	6.99%	6.99%	6.99%	6.99%	6.99%
Disability	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.00%	0.00%
Death	0.13%	0.13%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NC 401(k)	0.00%	5.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
FY 2025-26 Total Contribution Rate	24.04%	29.04%	13.96%	42.95%	26.31%

The State Health Plan amounts per SL 2023-134:

	FY 2024-25
Active (maximum)	\$8,095
Retirees (recommended)	\$5,405

For informational purposes only*

Per SL 2025-89, the employer contribution rates for FY 2025-26 are:

Employer Contribution Rates for New Positions					
	TSERS	LEO	ORP	CJRS	LRS
Retirement	17.14%	17.14%	6.84%	37.73%	18.26%
Health	7.33%	7.33%	7.33%	7.33%	7.33%
Disability	0.07%	0.07%	0.07%	0.00%	0.00%
Death	0.13%	0.13%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NC 401(k)	0.00%	5.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
FY 2025-26 Total Contribution Rate	24.67%	29.67%	14.24%	45.06%	25.59%

The maximum State Health Plan amount for active employees for FY 2025-26 per Section 3.6(c) of SL 2025-89 is **\$8,500**. The amount for retired employees is included in the total retirement contribution rate.

- 10) **Health and Retirement Reserves.** Increases for State Employee Health Plan and Retirement employer contributions should be certified to their respective reserves. Section 3.1(a) of SL 2025-89 lists out total appropriations for employee benefits by agency. To figure out the breakdown between Health and Retirement contributions, you can reference the [Committee Report](#) for SB 257.

11) **Budget Detail tab.** Fill in the Budget Detail as needed. The form will only allow agencies to select Chart of Account segments that have been validated. Please refer to Appendix A for guidance on the use of Fund Source.

- A. If IBIS does not show the chart of account sequence you need when filling out the Budget Detail tab, please request new chart of account combinations from NCFS.
- B. If agencies do not see chart segments populate in IBIS, agencies can run the NCFS Chart of Accounts Combination Report (RTR157 – Available in: Shared Folders > Custom > FBRCustom > General Ledger) to confirm existing and valid chart segments.

Use the [Agency Account Combination Template](#) to request any new account combinations needed to complete IBIS entries. After OSC approves and successfully uploads changes to NCFS, the new COA segments will interface with IBIS at noon or overnight.

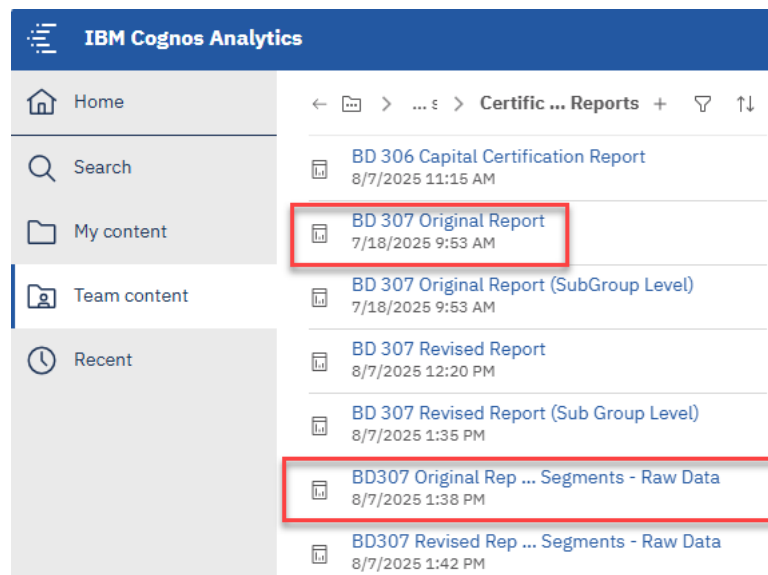
12) **Bulk Upload Form.** Agencies may use the upload template for IBIS certification forms to speed up certification entry. This form is available in IBIS and allows agencies to enter multiple lines for a single certification entry into an Excel spreadsheet. Agencies can then upload it into IBIS after completing the Basic Information Tab. This form may streamline entering complex entries into IBIS.

For the Budget Detail tab, select 'Excel Processing' and then 'Upload & Process' (as shown below). Make sure that all needed Chart of Account segments are validated so IBIS does not reject the entry.

The screenshot shows the IBIS Budget Detail tab interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Basic Information', 'Positions', 'Budget Detail', 'Budget Overview', and 'Attachments'. The 'Budget Detail' tab is active. Below the tabs, there is a 'Requirements' section with a table. The table has columns for 'Budget Fund', 'Account Number', 'Account Description', 'AMU', 'Program', and 'Fund Sec'. A dropdown menu is open over the table, showing options: 'Excel Processing', 'Download Template', 'Upload & Process', 'Download Bulk Upload Report', and 'Export to Template'. The 'Excel Processing' option is selected. The table currently shows 'No items to show'.

13) **BD 307 Reports.** Once certification forms are entered, agencies can generate a BD 307: IBIS>Reports>Self Service Reports>Certification Reports>.

- A. There are two BD 307 options: BD 307 Original Report and BD 307 Revised Report. In the Long Session, agencies should run **the BD 307 Original Report**.
- B. Agencies can also run the **BD 307 Original Report – All Segments – Raw Data** to ensure certification is correctly reflected for the entire chart sequence.



- C. Agencies can run a BD 307 to include forms in **draft** status (includes any forms not submitted to OSBM), **OSBM** status (includes any form submitted to OSBM but not approved), or in an **approved** status (includes any forms approved by OSBM). This allows agencies to create and review a BD 307 before all certification entries have been approved.
 - D. Note that, because the base budget is being loaded in advance of changes in SL 2025-89, BD 307s in IBIS and BD 701s in NCFS will show both the base budget and any previously certified funds from SL 2025-26 *before* agencies' submitted changes in IBIS are approved. The certification process will then add any appropriations from SL 2025-89 to those totals.
 - E. Agencies should review their BD 307 to identify any negative certified budgets and accounts and work with their OSBM analyst to address them.
- 14) **OSBM Notification.** Notify your OSBM Budget Development analyst once your entries are ready for review. When OSBM has completed its review and has approved all entries, IBIS will interface with NCFS overnight. Your OSBM analyst will notify you when the certification interface is complete.
- 15) **IBIS/NCFS Reconciliation.** Once your OSBM Budget Development analyst has notified you that IBIS has interfaced with NCFS, the next step is to verify that the budget information in NCFS matches that in IBIS. To do this, you will need to **run a July 2025 BD 701 Report in NCFS and compare it at the account level to the IBIS-generated BD 307**. IBIS and NCFS should match and include the base budget, any certified appropriations from SL 2025-26, and the new appropriations from SL 2025-89. If the BD 701 and BD 307 do not match, the agency will need to work with OSBM to reconcile and correct any differences.

Responsibilities for Reconciliation Check: OSBM checks that all systems reconcile at the Budget Code and Budget Fund levels. Agencies should ensure certification entries are correct at the detailed account level when reconciling between the BD 307 and the BD 701.

- 16) **Official Certification Copy.** The budget is considered certified once the State Budget Director has signed it. Your OSBM Budget Development analyst will send an electronic copy of your signed BD 307 to complete the certification process.

- 17) **Budget Revisions.** Once certification is complete, OSBM Budget Execution will work statewide to load repeat revisions. After repeat revisions are approved, OSBM will begin approving FY 2025-26 revisions.

Agency Certification Checklist

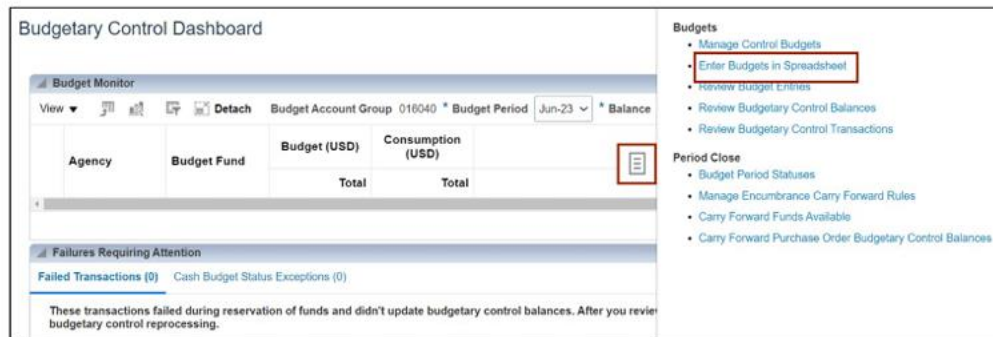
- ☐ 1. Review SL 2025-89.
- ☐ 2. Submit any new Budget Code and Budget Fund requests in IBIS to OSBM. Submit any new NCFS chart of account requests to OSC.
- ☐ 3. Create certification entries in IBIS.
- ☐ 4. If applicable, review all transfers and confirm that the interfund is correct.
- ☐ 5. Review accounts in your agency's BD 307 to confirm accuracy and identify any negative accounts and work with your OSBM development analyst to resolve.
- ☐ 6. Notify your OSBM development analyst that your entries are ready for review. When OSBM has completed its review, IBIS will interface with NCFS. Your OSBM analyst will notify you when the certification interface is complete.
- ☐ 7. Review the BD 701 in NCFS against the BD 307 in IBIS to ensure IBIS and NCFS match.
- ☐ 8. If IBIS and NCFS do not match, work with your OSBM budget development and execution analysts, if applicable using RK 325 and / or RK 314 reports to match with certified budgets adjusted by Type 11 revisions, and / or identify and correct any errors.
- ☐ 9. Notify your OSBM Budget Development analyst that IBIS and NCFS match. Your OSBM Budget Development analyst will send you an official signed copy of your BD 307.

Appendix A: NCFS Structure for Helene Funding

NCFS Structure for Helene Funding. For appropriations related to Helene recovery, such as the statewide Agricultural Disaster Crop Loss funding in Section 1.3, create unique Child Project segments, tagged with the appropriate Helene Descriptive Flex Field (DFF), to track new funds for Helene recovery by purpose. Enter the total appropriation amount via the NCFS Budgetary Control app to populate the total available funds in the Project Life to Date report (RPTRTR003).

- A. In line with GROW NC's [6/9 Helene Coding Memo](#), please take the following actions any time the agency receives new state or federal funds for Helene recovery. This accounting structure will help enable transparent and accurate statewide Helene financial tracking. The goal is to leverage NCFS for automated reporting and minimize agency staff time needed to comply with ongoing manual reporting requests.
 1. (*optional*) Create a unique Budget Fund that corresponds to the purpose of the appropriation.
 2. Create one or more unique Child Project(s) for each specific Helene recovery activity.
 - i. Use project descriptions that clearly reflect the purpose of the appropriation (e.g., the title within the subsection of the bill).
 - ii. You are encouraged to create more than one child project for funds that support broad programs covering multiple activities.
 - iii. You may NOT use a generic "Helene" child project.
 - iv. Project codes should begin with the agency number followed by H, with the remaining 7 digits up to the agency discretion (example: 14H0000024).
 - v. Ensure all revenues, expenditures, and reimbursements are coded to these projects.
 3. Ask OSC to tag the new child projects with the appropriate Helene DFF.
 - i. **HLN APP ###S:** *New* supplemental state and federal funds appropriated for Helene activities or reallocations directed in session law, showing the state funding share with ###S.
 - a. **Examples:**
 - i. HLN APP 0S: 100% federal funding
 - ii. HLN APP 50S: Combination of state and federal dollars with 50% state share
 - iii. HLN APP 100S: 100% state funding
 - ii. **HLN NO APP ###S:** *Existing* state and federal funds agencies choose to use to cover Helene activities, showing the state funding share with ###S.
 - a. **Examples:**
 - i. HLN NO APP 0S: 100% federal funding
 - ii. HLN NO APP 25S: Combination of operational funds and federal dollars with 25% state share
 - iii. HLN NO APP 100S: 100% state funding
 - b. **Reimbursement:** When federal reimbursements or insurance payments are received for Helene expenses, code the revenue to the same Child Project that the agency used for the expenditures. Do not change the DFF assigned to the Child Project. For example, if the agency first recorded initial state funds expenditures in a Child Project with DFF HLN NO APP 100S, then later received full or partial FEMA reimbursement of those costs, the federal revenues should be captured in this same Project and DFF. The Project history will then show the total and net state costs for the specific activity over time.

4. All Helene entries for an agency transfer-in using account 48100001 must use an interfund. While in some cases an interfund may not be required from an accounting perspective it is required for Helene reporting.
5. Populate the budget field within the Project Life to Date report (RPTRTR003) with the entire amount of the appropriation for each project. This is not an IBIS action. See OSC's [reference guide](#) for step-by-step instructions on completing the "Enter Budgets in Spreadsheet" task within the NCFS Budgetary Control App. Please contact OSC and copy Veronica Butcher at GROW NC (veronica.butcher@nc.gov) if you need a waiver of Budget Manager permissions to access the budget spreadsheet.



- B. Reach out to GROW NC analyst Veronica Butcher (veronica.butcher@nc.gov) with any questions about NCFS setup.