A biennial budget

1. (a) Despite what is said in articles 3(a)(2) and 3a of Basic Law: the State Economy -

(1) The state budget for the years 2017 and 2018 will be a biennial budget, that will present the expected and planned expenditures of the Government for each of the said years (in this basic law - the biennial budget). The biennial budget shall be set in a single law (in this basic law - the Biennial Budget Law);

(2) The multiannual budget plan that the Government shall place on the Knesset's table regarding the years 2017 and 2018 will include the Biennial Budget Bill as well as the budget plan for the year 2019. Within ninety days before the beginning of the year 2018, the Government shall place the budget plan for the year 2020 on the table of the Knesset Finance Committee. The Budget Bills for the years 2019 and 2020, which the Government shall submit to the Knesset, will be based on the said budget plans.

(3) A budget adjustments clause for the year 2018 shall be included in the Biennial Budget Law (in this basic law - the adjustments budget for the year 2018). The Government shall bring its proposal for the use of the adjustments budget for the year 2018 and for its appropriation for the said year, for the approval of the Knesset Finance Committee. Details regarding the adjustments budget for the year 2018, the proposal for its use and appropriation, shall be determined by law.

(b) In the year 2019, regarding article 3b(a) of Basic Law: the State Economy, the part of the biennial budget that relates to the Governments expected and planned
expenditures for the year 2018, shall be seen as the previous annual budget.

2. (a) Regarding any law, the two years 2017 and 2018 will be considered a single budgetary year, and in the Biennial Budget Law as an annual budget law for each of the said years, subject to special provisions laid down by law.

(b) Despite what is said in clause (a), with regards to paragraph (2) of the definition of "a budgetary bill", and paragraph (1) of the definition of "a budgetary reservation" in article 3c(d) of Basic Law: The State Economy, each of the years 2017 and 2018 will be viewed as a separate budgetary year.

3. (a) In this article -

"expenses difference" - the difference between the Government expenditure forecast for the year 2018 and the approved sum of the government expenditure for the year 2018, as determined by law;

"deficit difference" - the difference between the deficit forecast for the year 2018 and the sum of the permitted deficit for the year 2018, as determined by law.

(b) On the basis of a proposal by the Finance Minister, the Government shall submit to the Knesset until the 12th of Heshvan 5778 (November 1, 2017) a report with regards to the existence or non-existence of an expenses difference or a deficit difference (in this article - a report regarding the existence of differences). The Knesset Finance Committee shall hold a deliberation on the report no later than the said date. Provisions regarding the submission of the report will be determined by law.

(c) Should an expenditure difference or deficit difference be expected according to the report regarding the existence
of differences for the year 2018, and on the basis of the
said report the reduction of the adjustments budget for
2018 will not suffice to cover the full difference, the
Government shall prepare, on the basis of a proposal by
the Finance Minister, and after consultation with the
Knesset Finance Committee, a plan to cover the balance
of the difference (in this article - a balancing plan). The
provisions for the reduction of the adjustments budget for
the year 2018 and the preparation of a balancing plan to
cover the expenses difference or the deficit difference,
will be determined by law.

(d) Should all the actions on the basis of the balancing plan
be implemented by the 27th of Kislev 5778 (December
15, 2017), the Government shall confirm the fact in a
decision that shall be issued by the said date, and shall
lay its confirmation on the Knesset table by the 13th of
Teveth 5778 (December 31, 2017). Provisions regarding
the Government's confirmation according to this clause
will be determined by law.

(e) (1) If by the 27th of Kislev 5778 (December 15, 2017)
only part of the actions on the basis of the
balancing plan have been implemented, but the
difference that remained after their implementation
does not surpass the sum determined by law
(hereinafter - the convergence ceiling), the
Government shall confirm the fact in a decision
that shall be issued by the said date, and shall lay
its confirmation on the Knesset's table by the 13th
of Teveth 5778 (December 31, 2017).

(2) The provisions regarding the convergence ceiling
and the confirmation of the Government on the
basis of paragraph (1), as well as provisions
regarding the reduction of the approved sum of the
Government's expenditure for the year 2018, and
the implementation of steps by the Finance
Minister after the said reduction for covering the
difference that remained as stated in paragraph (1),
will be determined by law.
(3) If the Minister of Finance was to have implemented steps for covering the remaining difference as stated in paragraph (1), on the basis of the provisions determined by law as stated in paragraph (2), the Government shall confirm the fact that the steps were implemented by him, by means of its decision, and shall lay its confirmation on the Knesset's table by 13 Teveth 5778 (December 31, 2017).

(f) Should the Government fail to lay its confirmation on the Knesset's table on the basis of clause (d) or (e)(1), and if a confirmation is required on the basis of clause (e)(3) - also a confirmation as stated, until the 13th of Teveth 5778 (December 31, 2017) the following provisions shall apply:

(1) The part of the biennial budget that relates to the expected and planned government expenditures for 2018 shall not apply, and the provisions of article 3(a) of Basic Law: the State Economy shall apply to the budget for 2018;

(2) Despite the provisions of article 3(b)(1) to Basic Law: The State Economy, the Government shall lay the Budget Bill for the year 2018 on the Knesset's table by 17 Svath 5778 (January 31, 2018);

(3) Regarding article 3a(b) of Basic Law: The State Economy, the budget plans for the years 2019 and 2020 that were submitted on the basis of article 1(a)(2) shall be viewed as the multiannual budget plan, which must be submitted together with the Budget Bill for the year 2018;

(4) Until the adoption of the Budget Law for the year 2018 the provisions of article 3b of Basic Law: The State Economy shall apply, and the part of the biennial budget that applies to the expected and planned government expenditures for the year
2017 shall be viewed as the budget of the previous year;

(5) Despite what is said in article 36a of Basic Law: the Knesset, the determining date regarding the Budget Law for the year 2018 shall be the 14 Nissan 5778 (March 30m, 2018).