



Legislative Update - May 23 - 27, 2011

With the 2011 session deadline officially passed, lawmakers still have yet to come to an agreement on the FY 2012-2013 budget. The primary goals of the Legislature were to eliminate the state's \$5 billion budget deficit and create/improve job opportunities.

Leadership in the State Legislature and the Governor remain committed to their own budget balancing ideas and not a budget compromise. Consequently, the House and Senate passed state budget bills in the final days of session that the Governor indicated he'd veto – essentially forcing a special session.

After vetoing the budget bill, the Governor instructed his cabinet to prepare for a government shutdown. If leadership in the House and Senate cannot agree upon a compromise with the Governor before June 30, 2011 the government will shutdown – except for essential services. The courts will rule what services are considered essential and must remain open during a government shutdown. All other non-essential services will remain closed until an agreement can be reached. This action will have significant impact in the lives of families, communities and businesses statewide.

Below is an update of relevant chamber action and bills pertaining to out-of-school time programming that were passed in the final days of session:

Chamber Action

The Legislature has passed all the budget bills needed to fund state government for the 2012-2013 fiscal biennium.

Committee Updates

Legacy Conference Committee Omnibus Bill Update - (HF 1061 Rep. Dean Urdahl)/SF 1363 (Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen)

- \$12 million increase in the Parks and Trails Fund for Fiscal Year 2012-13
 - Metropolitan Parks and Trails grants received a \$4 million increase in fiscal year 2012-2013 to develop parks and trails and to provide grants to counties for regional parks and trails.
- Spending from the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund totals \$105.3 million over the next biennium
 - Minnesota Children's Museum is the only children's museum that receives funding in the 2012-13 fiscal year (excluding, Duluth, Grand Rapids, and Southern Minnesota Children's Museum's)
 - The Science Museum of Minnesota maintained its current funding level of \$1 million.
 - Libraries are funded at \$6 million, a \$4 million decrease from the 2010-2011 budget.

- Arts Access Grants and Arts Education grants through the Department of Education have been cut.
- The Humanities center received about a \$2.15 million increase in funding for program development, grants, and civic education.
- The Minnesota Zoo received a \$1 million cut in funding towards program development reducing their budget to \$3 million.

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