

Capital Budget

The 1996 Legislature did not adopt a supplemental capital budget. While it is customary for the Legislature to pass a supplemental budget to make changes to the biennial budget, the House and Senate could not agree on a proposal for the Trust Land Transfer Program, and the capital budget remained in dispute at the close of session.

The Governor identified six emergency projects that could not be delayed and notified the Legislature of administrative actions that will allow these projects to go forward without enactment of the supplemental capital budget. The six projects are:

1. Green Hill School, reconstruction: \$7 million
2. Maple Lane School, new sewer system: \$3.5 million
3. Airway Heights Correction Center, repair faulty water and heating lines: \$4 million
4. Veterans Administration, repair broken steam lines at Retsil: \$400,000
5. School for the Blind, fire safety improvements: \$30,000
6. General Administration, payment of construction settlement: \$1.3 million

The two Juvenile Rehabilitation projects at the Department of Social and Health Services will be funded from a combination of General Fund savings in the operating budget (\$9.9 million), and capital budget savings from the Spokane Psychiatric Triage Unit (\$950,000). The savings in the operating budget were made available by a veto of the budget reductions in the Aging and Adult Services program and a transfer of the vetoed amount to the Juvenile Rehabilitation program for capital expenditures. The transfer authority for the General Fund money is contained in Section 201 (3) of the 1996 Supplemental Operating Budget. The project transfer authority for the capital funds is authorized in Section 812 of the 1995-97 Capital Budget.

The Department of Corrections is demanding restitution from the contractor for the failed hot and chilled water system at Airway Heights. In the interim, capital project savings will be transferred from disallowed artwork appropriations (\$160,000), the Monroe special offender unit predesign (\$100,000), the Airway Heights expansion contingency (\$857,000), and the Stafford Creek utility connection savings (\$2.9 million) to complete the repairs.

The broken steam line at Retsil will be repaired by using \$100,000 from the OFM asbestos abatement pool and \$300,000 from deferral of the construction of the Roosevelt-Chilson connection project at Orting. The Roosevelt-Chilson project will proceed through the design phase with the remaining balance in the appropriation.

The \$30,000 for cottage fire doors at the School for the Blind in Vancouver will be provided by reallocating funds within the school's current capital budget for minor projects.

Funding for the Department of General Administration's settlement of the contractor's dispute over the construction costs of the Tacoma Museum will be provided by deferring the dredging of Capital Lake (\$900,000), and savings from the CFC/Halon replacement project (\$400,000). The Capital Lake project will proceed through the environmental study phase with the remaining balance in the appropriation.

By not adopting a supplemental capital budget, the Legislature did not approve the fiscal year 1997 list of projects for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). RCW 43.98A.080 prohibits the obligation of money for WWRP projects before the Legislature appropriates funds for a specific list of projects. Normally, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) reserves a portion of their biennial appropriation for release to local park projects in the second year of the biennium and requests legislative approval of the list of projects. The 1997 list would have approved the expenditure of \$4.2 million for local park projects which had not received prior legislative approval.