



Alabama lawmakers wrapping up failed special session

state house mug by julie.JPG

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Alabama legislators are wrapping up a failed special session today, with no budget in place for state agencies for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

The House of Representatives **on Monday voted 92-2** against a budget that would have reduced spending from the General Fund by \$185 million, forcing cuts in Medicaid, Mental Health, Public Health, the court system and other programs.

Special sessions are limited to 30 days, and today is the last day.

Gov. Robert Bentley will have to call a second special session for legislators to try again.

That probably would have been necessary even if the House had passed the budget and sent it to Bentley.

The governor had said he would veto it, and legislators would not have a chance to override because the session is in its closing days.

Bentley had sought \$302 million in tax increases and a budget that would spend \$1.9 billion from the General Fund.

The budget rejected on Monday would have spent \$1.65 billion from the General Fund, about a 10 percent cut from this year.

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