Alabama Senate approves General Fund; sent to governor

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The Alabama Senate passed the General Fund budget this afternoon.

The bill has now been sent to go to Gov. Robert Bentley, who has said he will veto it.

The Senate voted 20-13 to concur with **the budget passed last week** by House of Representatives.

The plan calls for spending $1.85 billion from the General Fund, including $700 million for Medicaid.

Bentley had requested $785 million for Medicaid and said he would veto a budget that did not meet that request.

The Legislature could override the governor's veto with a majority vote in both houses and enact the budget without his signature.

Overall, the budget would increase General Fund spending by $91 million, or 5 percent over this year.

The $700 million for Medicaid would be a $15 million increase over this year.

The budget also includes:

-- $97 million for the state court system, up 5 percent over this year.

-- $412 million for the Department of Corrections, up 3 percent

-- $32 million for the Department of Public Health, up 45 percent

-- $61 million for the Department of Human Resources, up 4 percent

-- $45 million for the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, the same as this year

-- $109 million for the Department of Mental Health, up 2 percent

-- $46 million for the Board of Pardons and Paroles, up 20 percent

Most other agencies would receive amounts close to what they received this year.

The Legislature is taking next week off for spring break. Lawmakers will return on April 5.

This story was corrected at 2:47 p.m. to delete statement that bill was already sent to governor.

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