

# Alabama budget cuts \$88 million from state agencies

BY LAUREN WALSH | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH 2015

Groundbreaking cancer research at UAB is expected to slow due to Alabama's budget cuts. (abc3340.com)



After months of in-party fighting and disagreements between the legislature and governor, Alabama now has a general fund budget.

"It took me nine months, nine months to convince the legislature to do what they did last night. I signed it into law today at noon," said Governor Robert Bentley.

From the beginning, Governor Bentley asked lawmakers to raise taxes in order to prevent drastic budget cuts. The budget was estimated to be short at least \$200 million.

In the second special session, lawmakers agreed to three tax increases: a



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cigarette tax, a nursing home bed tax and a tax on pharmacies for prescription drugs. They also agreed to transfer a portion of the use tax from the Education Trust Fund to the general fund. The idea was to move a growth tax into the stagnant general fund.

The new revenue, totaling \$166 million, will be enough to level fund what lawmakers consider the most essential services of state government. That is Medicaid, Corrections, Mental Health, Department of Human Resources and the courts. It also adds money for the state's new prison reform needed to avoid a federal takeover.

Even with the new revenue, the budget still cuts \$88 million, according to Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh's office.

Many agencies are now trying to figure out where to make cuts in their offices. For example, district attorneys and the Emergency Management Agency both received cuts.



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There were also some lines in the budget cut entirely, like three different appropriations for cancer research.

Groundbreaking cancer research at UAB will be slowed down.

"We have the technology and the know-how now to eliminate cancer as a public health problem in the first half of this century, by 2050. We would get there sooner if the investment was stronger," said Dr. Ed Partridge, Director of UAB's Comprehensive Cancer Center.



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Looking over what this budget cuts... \$1.75 million is cut from Cancer research, include \$500,000 from UAB. #alpolitics

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<p><b>g+</b> (https://plus.google.com /share?url=http://abc3340.com /news/local /alabama- budget- cuts-88- million- from-state- agencies)</p>	<p>When you go to Senior Services, you'll find a five percent cut. The agency says the cut means fewer meals for seniors and cuts in the senior Rx program.</p> <p>Department of Forensic Sciences is cut eight percent. These are just a few examples.</p> <p>Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh (R- Anniston) calls the cuts "rightsizing state government."</p> <p>Lawmakers approved the cuts as an alternative to more tax increases.</p> <p>The new budget takes effect October first.</p>



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