

May Legislative Report
Kevin Nelson
DRS Legislative Liaison

BUDGET UPDATE

The week after our last meeting, the State Equalization Board met to declare a revenue failure, allowing access to the rainy-day fund. This filled the budget hole for this fiscal year. At the meeting they also reduced the amount available for the coming year's budget by \$1.3 billion.

After the meeting there was a lot of skepticism about the reduction, given that the legislature projected a much smaller reduction. Nonetheless, we have a proposed budget from the legislature for the coming fiscal year based on the new numbers. Most agencies, including DRS, will see 4% cuts. Under the budget DRS would receive \$34,875,002.00, or \$1,434,097 less than last year. For the cabinet:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----|
| Department of Human Services | \$713,831,158 | -4% |
| Office of Juvenile Affairs | \$93,033,434 | -4% |
| Department of Rehabilitative Services | \$34,875,002 | -4% |
| Commission on Children and Youth | \$2,295,414 | -4% |
| Office of Disability Concerns | \$282,821 | 0% |
| TOTAL HHS | \$844,317,829 | -4% |

By the time of our Commission meeting, I expect the budget to be on its way to the Governor.

There is some concern the Governor will not sign it as he apparently walked away from budget negotiations in mid-march. However, legislative leaders at their budget press conference shared that they believe they have the votes necessary to pass and sustain it. Also, they have an open special session that could be used to amend the budget based on further COVID-19 developments.

LEGISLATION

The legislature is coming back in session today, May 4th. There is no word yet on what, if any, legislation will be considered outside a few bills for COVID-19, Medicaid expansion and the budget. But Sen. Treat made clear that lawmakers have until 5 pm May 29 to complete the 2020 regular session.