



Office of the Minority Leader

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REPUBLICANS OFFER AMENDMENTS TO REDUCE WASTE AND PORK IN STATE'S GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

Montgomery – Several Republican House members on Wednesday planned to offer floor amendments to the proposed General Fund operating in order to reduce waste and pork they believe it contains.

“Spending taxpayer dollars is the highest responsibility we hold as legislators, and I believe parts of this budget abuse that power,” House Minority Leader Mike Hubbard (R – Auburn) said. “How can we, in good conscience, fund pork projects and lavish expense accounts instead of funding essential state services for foster children, senior citizens and others?”

Hubbard pointed to two budget line items - \$400,000 funding increases for the House Clerk and Senate President Pro Tempore offices – as examples of misplaced priorities in the budget.

“Newspapers recently reported that Democrat state senators spent \$40,000 taxpayer dollars to decorate their offices, and Democrat House members spent \$20,000 on interior decorators,” Hubbard said. “Instead of giving the House and Senate a combined increase of almost \$1 million, we should give the funding to agencies like Medicaid, Human Resources or Corrections. At least we know those agencies, which are in desperate need of funding, won’t spend the money on lavish furnishings and interior decorators.”

The minority leader also noted that the proposed General Fund budget removes language that prohibits pass-through pork while, at the same time, providing large funding increases for agencies that do not fall under Gov. Bob Riley’s executive order banning the practice.

Among the amendments that will be offered on Wednesday, along with the sponsor of each, are:

- An amendment to reduce the House Clerk and Senate President Pro Tempore budget by \$400,000 each and increasing funding for child foster care in the Department of Human Resources by \$800,000 offered by Rep. Barry Mask (R – Wetumpka).
- An amendment to reduce the House Clerk and Senate President Pro Tempore budget by \$400,000 each and increasing funding for the Alabama Medicaid Agency by \$800,000 offered by Rep. Mary Sue McClurkin (R – Pelham).
- An amendment to reduce the House Clerk and Senate President Pro Tempore budget by \$400,000 each and increasing funding for the Alabama Department of Corrections by \$800,000 offered by Rep. Mac Gipson (R – Prattville).
- An amendment to reduce the House Clerk and Senate President Pro Tempore budget by \$400,000 each and increasing funding for the Alabama Department of Senior Services by \$800,000 offered by Rep. Jamie Ison (R – Mobile).
- An amendment to return language that expressly prohibits pass-through pork from being placed in the budget offered by Rep. Randy Wood (R – Anniston)
- An amendment requiring the House and Senate leadership to return end-of-year budget surpluses to the General Fund budget rather than rolling the funds over to the next fiscal year offered by Rep. Mike Hubbard (R – Auburn).
- An amendment to remove \$300,000 in pork funding from the Department of Agriculture and Industries budget and providing the money to the Alabama Emergency Management Agency offered by Rep. Steve McMillan (R – Gulf Shores).