



Likely and potential cuts under proposed FY 2012 General Fund budget

Budget hearings on March 23, 2011, gave General Fund agency heads an opportunity to put a human face on Gov. Bentley's proposed FY 2012 cuts, which vary by department. The governor did not propose cuts for several departments, including Medicaid, the Ethics Commission and Corrections. Cuts for 2012 would compound the impact of cuts in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Agriculture

- Layoffs of at least 60 employees already announced
- "Hard pressed to respond as comprehensively" if outbreak of bird flu or other disease
- Closure of two state-owned farmers' markets if community doesn't pick up costs

Archives and History

- Already stopped microfilming historic newspapers and scanning old photos and documents
- Already cut weekend hours to one Saturday per month
- Reduced security could put artifacts and displays at greater risk
- Layoffs of most younger professional staff (those with 3-10 years experience)

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

- More than 11,300 families could lose services
- Nine Child Advocacy Centers could close
- End of 11 home visitation programs could mean more crime and drug abuse in long term
- Possible end to screening for children exposed to domestic violence; 45 jobs lost there

Courts

- Number of civil jury trials cut by half
- Number of criminal jury trials cut by one-fourth
- About 140 layoffs on May 1 and 250 more layoffs on Oct. 1
- All trial-level law clerks would be laid off; there were only 12 statewide for 250 trial judges
- Courthouses could be closed every other Friday as part of possible furlough system
- "Slower, if not impossible at times, administration of justice in certain areas"

DHR

- Cuts would be focused on services funded largely by state dollars
- Child welfare and adult protection services may face cuts; no specific figures cited

District Attorneys

- 200 out of 1,000 employees in DA offices could be laid off
- Longer delays for criminal cases to go to trial as “choke point in the hourglass” gets tighter

Forensic Sciences

- Closure of three drug-case labs in Dothan, Florence and Jacksonville
- Major cutbacks to on-site crime scene assistance; some blood spatter analysis would remain

Forestry

- Layoffs of 80 to 90 people out of current 263 employees
- Longer response time will mean loss of more homes and acreage to catastrophic forest fires
- Sense of scale: 920 structures saved so far this year by fighting 1,084 fires on 25,211 acres

Geological Survey/Oil and Gas Board

- Layoffs of 24 to 28 people out of current 74 employees
- Slower permitting and inspection processes could affect economic development

Mental Health

- Closure of many community mental health centers would mean no outpatient services for 9,600 people and job losses for 71 employees
- Cuts for centers to serve intellectually disabled people would mean 754 people without day care and other services and 514 employee layoffs
- Substance abuse treatment services could be cut for more than 300 people
- Growing numbers of people in hospitals and prisons instead of receiving community care

Public Health

- ALL Kids enrollment capped at 77,000 on Oct. 1; enrollment is about 75,400 now
- Number of Medicaid-eligible people getting in-home services like dressing, bathing or cleaning would fall from 4,425 to 3,000 by September 2012 (done by attrition)
- Number of Medicaid-eligible people getting in-home health care visits down from 8,500 to 6,800
- Waiting list for AIDS drug assistance program to grow from current 1,600
- Restaurant inspections cut from three times a year to twice a year
- Fewer TB skin tests and less follow-up on STD tests showing gonorrhea and chlamydia

Unemployment Impact

- More than 1,380 jobs would be lost just from the layoffs anticipated by the above agencies
- Further layoffs by these and other state agencies would be likely
- Less spending by laid-off public workers would result in private-sector job losses as well

Source: Agency presentations at FY 2012 General Fund budget hearings, 3/23/11