

Alert #19-06: FY2007 Budget and Economic Stimulus Bill

Date of Alert: July 5, 2006

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NOTE: ALL REPLIES TO THE LIST ARE DISCARDED

Please send all responses and questions to litvolma@aol.com or steve.reuys@umb.edu.

Thanks!

ALERT SUMMARY:

1. PURVIEW: State (not federal)

2. LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION: None. This alert is for information only.

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FY2007 BUDGET SENT TO GOVERNOR FOR SIGNATURE

- The legislature approved the Joint Ways and Means Conference Committee budget on June 30 and sent it to Governor Romney for his signature.

- The budget provides **\$29.5 million for ABE line item #7035-0002** (the FY2006 funding level was \$29.3 million).

- The ABE line item also contains one earmark for a **non-ABE program**: \$200,000 has been added to the line item, increasing it from \$29.3 million to \$29.5 million, to fund a humanities program under the MA Foundation for the Humanities.

- MCAE was aware of this earmark and worked hard to get it removed. We contacted the director of the MA Foundation for the Humanities and asked for his cooperation in moving it to a more appropriate line item, but he refused. We sent letters to all members of the Joint Ways and Means Conference Committee, the House Speaker and the Senate President requesting that it be removed. Rep. Dan Bosley spoke to his colleagues on our behalf.

- Despite our efforts, we were unable so far to get the earmark removed. We remain committed to preventing it from being imposed on the ABE line item in the FY2008 budget.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE FY2007 BUDGET

- The Governor, who has 10 days to either sign the budget or issue his vetoes, can only veto money amounts or language. He cannot add money to a line item.

- The legislature can override a veto with a 2/3 vote in both the House and the Senate. The override votes must be conducted by roll call, and roll calls can only take place during formal legislative sessions. Since formal legislative sessions for both the House and the Senate end on July 31, the legislature has until July 31 to override any gubernatorial vetoes.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL INCLUDES \$3 MILLION INCREASE FOR ABE LINE ITEM

- The Economic Stimulus Bill passed on June 15 and was sent to the Governor for his signature.

- The bill included a **\$3 million increase for ABE line item #7035-0002 from \$29.3 million to \$32.3 million.**

- Although Governor Romney vetoed many provisions of the Economic Stimulus Bill, which the legislature may still override, the Governor **did not** veto the increase for ABE so it remains in the bill.

QUESTIONS

- If you have any questions, please contact MCAE Public Policy Co-Chairs, Steve Reuys (steve.reuys@umb.edu) or Roberta Soolman (litvolma@aol.com).

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