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Governor asks for \$73 million in supplemental spending

Governor Locke has asked the legislature to approve a \$75.1 million supplemental General Fund State (GFS) budget, which would increase 1997-99 spending by \$19.2 billion. The increase would also boost the 601 limit for 1999-2001 by \$152 million. (As a rule, analysts estimate each dollar added to the supplemental budget raises the spending limit for the next biennium by two dollars.)

Governor's Proposed GFS Supplemental Budget			
(Dollars in Thousands)	1997-1999	1999	1997-1999
Functional Area	Biennial Budget	Supplemental	Total
Legislative	\$113,974	\$ -	\$113,974
Judicial	60,553	20	60,573
Governmental Operations	349,417	7,162	356,579
Human Services	5,931,793	4,420	5,936,213
Natural Resources and Recreation	245,199	7,412	252,611
Transportation	39,506	68	39,574
Public Schools	8,817,896	-19,660	8,798,236
Higher Education	2,208,291	2,998	2,211,289
Other Education	50,041		50,041
All Other Appropriations	1,267,052	70,180	1,337,232
Total	\$19,083,722	\$72,600	\$19,156,322

The increased spending is concentrated primarily in two "Special Appropriations" (shown with "All Other Appropriations" in the table):

- ❑ \$36.3 million for the Agricultural Permanent Account, and \$4 million for a new Agricultural College Lands Account to reimburse Washington State University for past management of the trust lands.
- ❑ A transfer of \$22.4 million GFS to the Common School Construction Account.

Also, the following state agencies could see significant adjustments in their 1997-1999 GFS operating budgets:

Military Department — \$ 2.5 million more is requested for the costs of state and local agencies responding to fires during 1998. And \$1.3 million of the agency's supplemental request is earmarked for the state's share of the required match for federal assistance for the Kelso Landslide disaster.

Department Of Social and Health Services – After accounting for a host of changes, a net \$1.8 million increase in GFS would go to DSHS. The reallocations stem from revisions in caseload projections, changes in federal funding requirements, and vendor rate adjustments.


Department Of Corrections – The governor wants \$4.2 million for more inmates than originally planned for. The department revised its plans for housing offenders to match the Caseload Forecast Council's November 1998 estimates. Included in the costs is the housing of a daily average of 121 offenders in other states, through the "Rent-a-Bed" program.

Department Of Natural Resources – The request includes an additional \$6.4 million for emergency fire-suppression in 1998. More than 800 fires, most in August, burned about 21,000 acres last year.

Superintendent of Public Instruction (K-12) – Enrollment for the 1998-1999 school year is 4,987 below the estimate used in preparing the biennial budget. This will save the state \$19.8 million. The savings include \$1.5 million from lower district "staff mix" than expected. ("Staff Mix" is the factor used to adjust the compensation formula for increased education and job longevity.) A reduction of \$3.2 million previously appropriated for levy equalization is possible because fewer districts than expected passed local operating levies. Failure to pass the levies disqualifies districts from receiving levy-equalization funds.

University Of Washington – The university has requested \$3.5 million more for enhancements to its high-speed Internet facility. The UW says these funds will enable it to create and operate the local high-speed research testbed, encourage regional participation, and speed up completion of facilities for the next round of federally funded Internet research applications.

Bond Retirement And Interest – Revised estimates from the Office of State Treasurer resulted in a reduction of \$5.6 million necessary to meet the payments on bond principle and interest in the current biennium.

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