Information Alert #6 - Senate Finance Amends HB1 to Restore LDH Programs

May 11, 2018

The Senate Finance Committee passed the budget bill (HB1) this afternoon with amendments that restored some, if not all, funding to the LA Department of Health (LDH). The amendments are not yet available, but Committee Chairman Eric LaFleur specifically stated that funding was restored to the following programs in this version of the bill:

- Special Income Level Program - impacting 57% of current waiver recipients with developmental disabilities and ICF/DD residents
- Pediatric Day Health Care Centers
- Public-private Partner Hospitals
- Mental Health Services

To fund healthcare (and fully fund Go Grants), the Finance Committee made the following cuts:

- Higher education by 10%
- Certain dedicated funds by 5%
- TOPS by an additional 10% (totaling a 30% cut)
- Every other state department by 24.2%

Committee members repeatedly stated that the budget passed out of Committee was an intermediate step and simply to demonstrate their priorities. The Committee recognizes that the government agencies cannot function with those massive cuts and that new revenue must be raised in a Special Session to maintain core services.

Watch Chairman LaFleur explain the Committee's amendments and the next steps in the process here. His presentation is first on the agenda.

Read this article from the News Star about today's Finance Committee meeting.

HB1 is tentatively expected to be heard on the Senate Floor on Tuesday.

Contact Us

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