

# Continuing Budget Authority Addresses School Issues

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The House and Senate on Thursday approved a third stopgap spending measure to direct how the Governor may spend state funds with no permanent plan in place a month into the new fiscal year.

That measure, contained in [House Bill 102](#), was sent to Governor Beverly Perdue for her signature. It follows the current temporary measure that expires tonight by telling Perdue and state agencies to keep spending austerely - no more than 84 percent of what was approved in last year's \$21 billion budget.

The bill directs the budget officer to go ahead and implement proposed state budget items that were not in controversy between the House and Senate. This directive will affect a number of public school funding components, but an analysis of what those include is not yet available.

The bill also clarifies that nothing in a law adopted earlier this year shall be construed as preventing school districts from using American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds to employ teachers and other school personnel for 2009-10.

Unlike the two previous stopgap spending measures, this one has no expiration date, which means state spending authority could continue at the current level indefinitely, even if a state budget is not signed into law.