



State Senate  
West Virginia Legislature

Senator Jeffrey Kessler  
(D - Marshall)



State Capitol Complex  
Building 1, Room 210W  
Charleston, WV 25305

From the Desk of Sen. Jeffrey V. Kessler  
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The Legislature ended its second special session of the year last Wednesday after voting to increase state spending by \$39.1 million.

The House of Delegates approved all six supplemental appropriation bills proposed by the Governor and previously passed by the Senate last Monday.

The new spending includes \$15 million for roads and bridges, \$7.4 million for higher education and \$3.8 million for flood relief.

At least \$7 million will restore cuts to the new budget that takes effect July 1, but only as one-time funding. Beneficiaries include public schools, which will get \$5 million for student enrichment programs. Another \$1 million goes to domestic violence programs, while free clinics and in-home family education can expect \$300,000 apiece.

Some of the measures passed during the three-day session reassigns \$6.1 million already in the budget. Those changes would allow improvements at community and technical colleges, debt payments by the Department of Administration, and for the Division of Rehabilitation Services to draw down federal matching funds.

When we completed the new budget last month, we cut \$197 million from what the Governor had initially proposed because of a projected decline in future revenue. The supplemental measures rely on lottery proceeds, the State Road Fund and surplus general tax revenue.

We also held our monthly interim meetings last week during session. Most of those meetings were organizational in nature in which we confirmed new appointments to committees and decided which legislation to study over the next six months.

Also, the Governor signed a diverse range of 10 bills into law last Wednesday, touching on everything from alternative energy sources to extra help for third-grade and eighth-grade students. These bills are now official.

Some of the measures are corrected versions of regular-session bills that the Governor had vetoed because of technical errors. We fixed those bills during last month's extended session for the state budget.

The rest of the measures signed were rescued during a special session earlier this month. Those had nearly passed during the year's regular session, but fell just short despite significant support among lawmakers.

I hear your voice and I encourage all of you, regardless of party or affiliation, to contact me with any concerns you have regarding issues facing our district or our state. You can write to me at: Jeffrey V. Kessler, State Senate, West Wing, Room 210, State Capitol Building, Charleston, WV 25305. You can contact me by email: [kessler@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:kessler@mail.wvnet.edu). You can also call my Charleston office at (304) 357-7880.