

# Deadlocked Legislature weighing 1-month stopgap budget

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**Senate Republicans on Thursday released two new state operating budget proposals — a full plan for the 2015-17 budget cycle and another to keep government running for a month.**

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OLYMPIA — With less than a week until a partial state-government shutdown, Republican lawmakers are floating a backup plan.

Senate Republicans on Thursday released two new state operating budget proposals — a full plan for the 2015-17 budget cycle and another to keep government running for a month.

Lawmakers are nearing the end of a [second special session](#) without finding agreement on a budget. If no compromise is reached, parts of the government will [close down starting July 1](#).

“We will not allow a government shutdown, we think it would be disastrous, we think it would be irresponsible,” said Sen. Andy Hill, R-Redmond and chief GOP budget writer.

Will Plan B — which would be a first in Washington state history — be necessary? Hill said the bill shouldn't be taken as signal that budget talks are going poorly — [despite recent pronouncements](#) from Democrats.

“We are moving along in negotiations, but this is strictly a, as I call it, ‘break glass’ type of thing,” he said.

The one-month budget carries over existing programs in their current form, Hill said.

Both the one-month proposal, [Senate Bill 6051](#), and the new two-year plan, [Senate Bill 6052](#), are scheduled to be heard this afternoon in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Rep. Reuven Carlyle, D-Seattle, compared the one-month proposal to something done in the other Washington, where passing a federal budget has become more of an option than a requirement.

“As a general rule,” said Carlyle, “Washington, D.C., solutions to Olympia problems don’t usually seem very constructive.”

Jaime Smith, spokeswoman for Gov. Jay Inslee, said Inslee doesn’t believe a short-term budget is necessary.

“They’re close to a budget agreement and should just stay focused on getting it done,” Smith said, adding later: “The governor feels they’ve have plenty of time to reach a budget.”

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