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# Md. plans closings, cuts for \$243 million deficit

## Budget chief Benton says at least 100 likely to be laid off

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ANNAPOLIS — The Schaefer administration cut more deeply into the flesh of state government yesterday to cover Maryland's remaining \$243 million budget deficit.

It announced plans to close a small treatment center near Thurmont for the developmentally disabled, to end a state meat and poultry inspection program, and to eliminate or scale back a variety of other programs that will result in at least several dozen layoffs and probably more.

In addition, facilities at a dozen state parks will be closed for a half-year; a \$1 million-a-year compensation program for Chesapeake Bay watermen will be terminated; asbestos and savings and loan litigation units in the attorney general's office will be phased out; and some members of the governor's staff will have to give up their car phones.

Budget and Fiscal Planning Secretary Charles L. Benton Jr. described this second round of budget reductions as "painful" but said it is much improved over an original administration plan that would have resulted in an estimated 1,800 layoffs, effective New Year's Day.

The compromise, described in a briefing for reporters yesterday, represents an amalgamation of Gov. William Donald Schaefer's original deficit-reduction plan and alternatives developed by General Assembly leaders and their budget advisers.

Mr. Benton said he could not say exactly how many layoffs would result from the latest budget action because they are sprinkled throughout the state bureaucracy, but he acknowledged they likely will exceed 100.

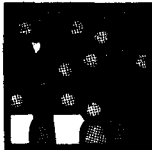
Combined with a previous first round of cuts that reduced the deficit by \$180 million, this latest \$243 million in savings — if approved by the Board of Public Works next Wednesday, as expected — should cover the overall \$423 million deficit that developed in the current budget year as the state's economy suddenly soured.

The bulk of the savings will come from transfers from various funds into the state's general treasury, moves that must be approved by the passage of legislation.

The biggest transfers include \$72 million from a \$126 million "Rainy

## Budget cut highlights

Here are key parts of Gov. William Donald Schaefer's latest plan to cut \$242.6 million from the current state budget, in addition to \$180.6 million cut earlier:



**Agency spending:** Layoffs, hiring freezes and other belt-tightening would trim state agency budgets. Officials couldn't say how many employees will lose their jobs. **Savings:** \$15 million.



**Higher education:** Public colleges and universities will trim budgets by \$15 million. Grants to public and private colleges will be cut by \$3.8 million. **Savings:** \$18.8 million.



**Health benefits:** An extra \$5-per-paycheck subsidy to state employees' health insurance costs will be eliminated, and an Employee Health Insurance Program fund will be diverted to the general treasury. **Savings:** \$16 million.



**Local aid:** Four programs of aid to local governments -- for community colleges, libraries, police and property tax subsidies -- will be reduced. **Savings:** \$15.6 million.



**Capital projects:** Delay completion of Sykesville public safety training center, trim Rocky Gap Golf Course appropriation, and cut or put off other projects. **Savings:** \$31.8 million.



**Open space and farmland:** Funds for buying parkland and preserving farmland will be diverted to the general treasury. **Savings:** \$40 million.



**Rainy day fund:** More than half of the \$126 million in this fund -- designed to meet just such emergencies -- would be used. **Savings:** \$72 million.



**S&L recoveries:** Greater than expected recoveries from selling assets of failed Maryland savings and loans will go to alleviate the budget shortfall. **Savings:** \$13.3 million.



**Corporate income tax:** Part of the corporate income tax that now goes to the Transportation Trust Fund would instead go to shore up the budget. **Savings:** \$22.2 million.

# Proposed local aid cuts

Subdivision	Share of state property tax	Libraries	Community colleges	Police aid	Total
Allegheny	\$23,000	\$15,000	\$128,000	\$26,000	\$192,000
Anne Arundel	415,000	118,000	570,000	238,000	1,341,000
Baltimore City	86,000	65,000	0	428,000	579,000
Baltimore Co.	624,000	213,000	1,439,000	376,000	2,652,000
Calvert	119,000	20,000	0	40,000	179,000
Caroline	15,000	10,000	28,000	12,000	65,000
Carroll	130,000	50,000	97,000	67,000	344,000
Cecil	54,000	18,000	138,000	32,000	241,000
Charles	91,000	27,000	236,000	45,000	399,000
Dorchester	31,000	14,000	43,000	21,000	109,000
Frederick	242,000	52,000	303,000	114,000	712,000
Garrett	4,000	1,000	13,000	2,000	21,000
Harford	133,000	51,000	280,000	75,000	538,000
Howard	229,000	50,000	219,000	88,000	586,000
Kent	24,000	5,000	30,000	10,000	69,000
Montgomery	1,160,000	163,000	970,000	557,000	2,850,000
Pr. George's	630,000	229,000	823,000	582,000	2,265,000
Queen Anne's	70,000	12,000	75,000	24,000	181,000
St. Mary's	84,000	26,000	0	45,000	155,000
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Talbot	242,000	27,000	231,000	67,000	567,000
Washington	121,000	54,000	295,000	85,000	556,000
Wicomico	83,000	41,000	115,000	57,000	297,000
Worcester	484,000	25,000	151,000	104,000	763,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,095,000</b>	<b>1,287,000</b>	<b>6,185,000</b>	<b>3,094,000</b>	<b>15,661,000</b>

## Md. details reductions to cover budget deficit

**BUDGET**, from 1A

Day Fund" set up for just such emergencies; \$40 million from parkland acquisition and farmland preservation programs; and \$22 million from the Transportation Trust Fund.

The University of Maryland and other state colleges also must reduce their budgets by \$15 million.

Another \$15.6 million will be trimmed from the state's local aid programs for community colleges, libraries, police protection and property tax subsidies. But Mr. Benton said the cuts were apportioned so that the poorest subdivisions, such as Baltimore or Somerset County, would be harmed the least.

Mr. Benton said legislative leaders have told Mr. Schaefer "they were flexible and indicated cooperation. We don't anticipate any problems."

State Sen. Barbara A. Hoffman, D-Baltimore, one of only three legislators who made it through Thursday night's snowstorm to a briefing on the deficit-reduction plan, said she was impressed that the governor and his aides "tried very hard to do the least amount of damage. And they really did."

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Charles J. Ryan Jr., D-Prince George's, indicated that lawmakers were likely to go along with the current year reductions, but were not necessarily committed to carrying them through to the following fiscal 1992 budget. Mr. Schaefer is currently trying to find a way to close a projected \$208 million shortfall in that budget plan before submitting it to the legislature in about two weeks.

Mr. Benton said the most difficult task was to ask state agencies that already had reduced their budgets by \$88 million to find ways to trim another \$15 million.

Among the latest casualties:

□ A Department of Agriculture meat and poultry inspection program, which is to be replaced by a nearly identical federal inspection

program, effective April 1. Robert L. Walker, the deputy agriculture secretary, said the department hopes that as many as half of the state's 37 inspectors will be re-employed under the federal program.

□ The Victor Cullen Center in Sabillasville, a residential treatment center for severely or profoundly retarded adults. When the center closes sometime before June 30, its 79 patients will be transferred to other state facilities.

Layoffs of the center's 142 employees, said health department spokeswoman Tori Leonard, are "yet to be determined." She said it was possible — "but no guarantee" — that some of the jobs could be transferred.

□ A 10-member unit within Mr. Benton's budget department that has assisted other state agencies address their computer needs.

Like the meat inspectors and the three shifts of employees at the Cullen Center, Mr. Benton's computer assistance employees were given the bad news yesterday afternoon.

□ To save \$178,000, a dozen state parks will close Jan. 1 and remain closed until June 30. Personnel who normally staff visitors centers or other park facilities will be temporarily transferred to other parks in the region, camping will be prohibited and rental cabins will be closed.

Nevertheless, most of the parks will still be available for nature walks or similar activities.

"You shouldn't conjure up the image of gates being locked or boarded up," said John R. Griffin, deputy secretary of natural resources.

The parks include: Calvert Cliffs, Cedarville, Dans Mountain, Gambrell, Gathland, Janes Island, Morgan Run, New Germany (which will remain open until March because of use for cross-country skiing), the McKeldin area of Patapsco Valley, Susquehanna, Tuckahoe and Washington Monument in Washington County.