

Assembly Republicans Pass Budget, Send It To Walker

Written by GBP Staff

Thursday, 09 July 2015 10:59 - Last Updated Thursday, 09 July 2015 12:20

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The Republican-controlled Wisconsin Assembly passed the \$73 billion state budget early Thursday morning on a 52-46 vote, with 11 Republicans joining all 35 Democrats in opposition. All Democratic amendments rejected. Spending plan goes on to Gov. Scott Walker four days before he was to officially launch his presidential campaign.

MADISON - The Republican-controlled Wisconsin Assembly passed the state budget with only two votes to spare early Thursday morning, sending the \$73 billion spending plan on to Gov. Scott Walker four days before he was to officially launch his presidential campaign.

The budget passed on a 52-46 vote, with 11 Republicans joining all 35 Democrats in opposition. One Democrat was absent. The Senate, also controlled by the Republicans, had passed the budget bill 18-15 on Tuesday, with one Republican breaking ranks.

Assembly debate leading up to the vote was anti-climactic. During debate that began shortly after noon Wednesday and ended at 12:40 a.m. Thursday, Assembly Republicans rejected all Democratic amendments, which would have done such things as increase funding for K-12 schools and the University of Wisconsin and undo numerous other portions of the GOP plan.

The budget as passed last night holds property taxes in check, does not raise income or sales taxes, cuts University of Wisconsin funding by \$250 million while freezing tuition for two years, and largely holds funding for public K-12 schools flat next year while also expanding the private school voucher program.

It also will require public aid recipients to undergo a screening for drugs, eliminates the prevailing wage paid to construction workers on public projects at the local level and lowers borrowing for transportation work by \$450 million that will lead to delays in some projects.

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