

Examples

For

PRNDI 4: Translating Audio to Text

Sample Re-writes of Stories drawn from Public Radio News Sites



## Governor calls for furloughs

BUFFALO, NY (WBFO) - Governor David Paterson is planning to ask the Legislature to furlough 100,000 state workers one day a week until a 2010 spending plan is adopted.

Paterson is also calling on lawmakers to pass his budget or begin working five-days a week to approve their own plan. The Governor appeared at GM'S Tonawanda plant yesterday. That's when he offered some powerful and animated comments about the state's budget crisis.

Governor Paterson doesn't believe the Legislature's three day work week in Albany is fair to taxpayers. While at the GM-Tonawanda plant, he applauded an on-going management-union relationship that has allowed the facility to survive through difficult job cuts and a recession. It is something the Governor would like to duplicate in government.

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wbo/news.newsmain/article/0/0/1642555/WBFO.News/Governor.calls.for.furloughs>

## Patterson Wants to Furlough State Workers

BUFFALO, NY - Gov. David Patterson says the Legislature should furlough state workers and increase its own hours until it passes a balanced state budget.

In a speech Tuesday at GM's Tonawanda facility, he said the government could learn from the plant's management-union team for making cuts that have kept it open.

Patterson said he will ask the Legislature to furlough 100,000 state workers one day a week until it adopts a 2010 budget.

Patterson is feuding with public employee unions over proposed salary and benefit cuts. Public Employee Federation President Keneth Brynien called the furlough illegal.

CSEA President Danny Donohue had a one-word response: "Nuts."

At Tuesday's event, Patterson also ridiculed a legislative proposal to provide property tax relief in the midst of a recession.

"This idea of borrowing to give people rebates for property taxes is such a game that it really needs to be exposed," he said.

Patterson said there was little chance he'd sign the tax cut into law.

"Maybe if I was tied up and a gun was pointed to my head. Even then it would be an honor to get shot by the Senate for not doing it," he said.

## Illinois Legislature, Governor Trying to Avoid Teacher Layoffs

Gov. Pat Quinn and lawmakers are trying to avoid teacher layoffs as they cut billions from next year's state budget, according to one lawmaker.

**Behind-the-scenes budget negotiations are taking place in Springfield between Quinn and Democratic leaders in the Legislature.**

Alton Democratic Sen. Bill Haine, who was briefed on the latest talks, says the state would borrow billions to cover a financial shortfall. He says the goal is to spare teacher jobs.

"The borrowing will be focused on keeping essential services viable," he said, including education.

For the second straight year, Quinn has called for an income tax increase. But Haine says there is no appetite for raising taxes and the public has yet to be sold on the need.

Illinois' budget is an estimated \$13 billion in the red. Haine says pushing off state payments even longer could be part of the final solution.

He estimates the budget should be ready by May 7.

## Lawmakers Mull Budget with No Tax Hike

**Behind-the-scenes negotiations are taking place on a new Illinois state budget. And the plan under discussion won't raise taxes.**

No tax increase could mean teacher layoffs – thousands of them cross the state. That was what Gov. Pat Quinn warned.

Now, Quinn and other Democratic leaders are apparently working on a way out.

Alton Democratic Sen. Bill Haine has been briefed on the latest talks.

He says the focus is on sparing teacher jobs. He says the state would borrow billions to cover a financial shortfall.

HAINES: The borrowing will be focused on keeping essential services viable... such as education.

Haine says the latest version also includes spending cuts, but in other areas. Those are still being decided.

HAINES: I believe we'll have a budget by May 6th or 7th... the way they're going. That could allow lawmakers to adjourn on time.

The governor, for the second straight year, has called for an income tax increase. But Haine says there is no appetite for raising taxes, and he says the public has yet to be sold on the need. Illinois' budget is an estimated \$13 billion in the red. Haine says pushing off state payments even longer could be part of the final solution.