


ROBERT BENTLEY
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALABAMA

TO: Members of the Alabama State Legislature
 FROM: Governor Robert Bentley 
 RE: Projected Impacts of the Clouse/Orr General Fund Proposal
 DATE: April 21, 2015

I have asked these agencies to provide me with an accurate and unvarnished emergency operations plan in response to the proposed Clouse/Orr General Fund cuts. This information is designed to inform the Legislature of the impacts related to the statutorily mandated services if the cuts currently proposed are enacted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**Business Regulation:**

It is highly likely that the Obama Administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will take control over and shut down ADEM.

- If the EPA is involved, it will cost businesses money, take longer to receive permits and ultimately cost jobs.

Military and Veterans:

Funding for the National Guard and services for our veterans will be cut.

- Closure of as many as 25 Army National Guard armories and the diminished operational capabilities of our 2 Air National Guard Wings.
- The loss of 1,625 Army National Guard soldiers and 170 Air National Guard airmen.
- The closure of 3 county veteran service offices in addition to 17 that closed in 2012.

Public Safety:

Major public safety functions will be cut resulting in the state's decreased ability to ensure the safety of its citizens.

- Layoff of 132 law enforcement officers and closure of 13 Trooper Posts resulting in limited highway coverage, operational security for major events and criminal investigations.
- ALEA will be forced to shut down 33 of 78 stand-alone state Driver License Offices.
- Closure of the Huntsville Regional Laboratory and Morgue requiring 22 of the most northern counties in Alabama to transport bodies to the Montgomery lab.

Corrections:

Serious safety concerns for correctional officers as inmate to officer ratio climbs to over twice the national standard and a heightened rate of recidivism for offenders.

- Closure of 2 facilities will shift 2,000 prisoners back into the overcrowded system.
- General Fund cuts will work against the progress of the Prison Reform Task Force.

Services to Children and Individuals in Need:

General Fund cuts will jeopardize hundreds of millions in Federal funds (DHR, Senior Services, Mental Health, and Medicaid).

- Likely resulting in \$320 million of total cuts to the Medicaid program.
- 17,000 children will lose day care benefits.
- Over 30,000 children will lose Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
- Over 25,000 people will lose mental health services.

Court System:

Court operations will cease to exist in its current form.

- The Alabama court system will be unable to meet its constitutional requirements.
- The State Supreme Court and its appellate courts, along with 67 county courthouses will be required to cut staff and citizens will experience longer wait times.

State Parks:

Recreational opportunities at parks funded by state government will be drastically cut.

- Closure of 15 of the 22 state parks, with an increase of fees to sustain the remaining seven parks.