

Brown proposes \$4.2 billion in cuts to California budget

By Kevin Yamamura, Sacramento Bee

Gov. Jerry Brown proposed Thursday slashing nearly \$1.4 billion in welfare and child care aid for the poor while holding voters liable for \$5 billion in education funding with a November tax measure.

The Democratic governor announced his January budget plan this afternoon after his proposal was inadvertently leaked on his Department of Finance website. He estimates the state faces a \$9.2 billion general fund deficit through June 2013, which he proposes to bridge with mostly cuts and taxes.

Brown will ask voters to pass a \$6.9 billion ballot measure in November that raises taxes on sales and income starting with single filers earning \$250,000 a year.

"With the tax program, we will eliminate the budget deficit finally, after years of kicking the can down the road," Brown said.

With or without the taxes, Brown is calling for a base level of \$4.2 billion in cuts, including the \$946 million to welfare-to-work and \$446 million to subsidized child care. He also would save \$842 million in Medi-Cal by moving recipients into managed care plans.

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