

# Calif. lawmakers pass \$156 billion budget

By David Siders and Jeremy B. White, Sacramento Bee

California lawmakers approved a \$156.4 billion state budget Sunday, rushing to pass legislation less than six hours before the constitutional deadline.

The spending plan, a compromise between Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature's Democratic majority, includes more money for high-speed rail, Medi-Cal and welfare-to-work, and an expansion of child care and preschool for poor children.

It also begins to pay down an estimated shortfall of more than \$74 billion in the teachers' pension fund and puts about \$1.6 billion into a special rainy-day account.

The budget's passage resolves months of budget negotiations at the Capitol, a process that has become less rancorous as the state's financial condition has improved. The Father's Day vote came just before the midnight deadline by which lawmakers must pass a budget to avoid losing pay.

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