

Calif. Legislature approves \$117.5 bil. budget

By Chris Megerian, Los Angeles Times

California lawmakers passed a new budget Monday, but the debate over state spending is far from over in the Capitol.

Shortly after the approval of a \$117.5-billion general fund, legislative leaders returned to negotiations with Gov. Jerry Brown in an attempt to reach a final deal.

"We're close," said Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins, D-San Diego.

Lawmakers' pay would have been docked had they not passed a budget by midnight. But the plan they approved is \$2.2 billion larger than what Brown proposed, and the governor has repeatedly expressed concern that the Legislature's ruling Democrats want to spend too much.

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