

## **Governor's 2012-2013 Budget Emphasizes Economic Development but Contains Smaller Education Cuts**

November 3--Yesterday, Governor John Hickenlooper unveiled a proposed \$18.7 billion budget for the State of Colorado that includes a new emphasis on economic development. The Governor presented his budget blueprint to the legislature's Joint Budget Committee, which will do the heavy lifting in the 2012 legislative session to write the budget.

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=GovHickenlooper%2FCBONLayout&cid=1251608981339&pagename=CBONWrapper>

In his letter to the Joint Budget Committee, the Governor said:

“The proposed budget seeks to add to the state’s available tools with three initiatives: allocating \$6 million to the Economic Development Council; allocating \$3.1 million to fund the Governor’s Energy Office with Limited Gaming funds; and allocating \$3 million from Limited Gaming funds to start an innovative loan program to promote film production and location within Colorado.”

<http://bit.ly/vnAVZa>

The state’s K-12 and higher education budget would be cut \$173.9 million, although the cuts would be less than in the prior two fiscal years. K-12 education would be cut 2.2 percent, or \$97.1 million. The K-12 education budget was cut \$227.5 million for the current 2010-2011 fiscal year, which ends June 30<sup>th</sup>, and \$260 million in the previous fiscal year. Higher education would be cut \$76.8 million, which is a 2.7 percent reduction, for the upcoming 2012-2013 fiscal year.

For more on the Governor’s proposed budget, read:

“Colorado Gov. Hickenlooper wants seniors to forgo tax break again,” by Tim Hoover, *The Denver Post*, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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