

## Key Issues with the Proposed State Budget

### Redefinition of "Sex"

The bill proposes to legally define sex strictly as male or female. This change would exclude recognition of transgender, nonbinary, and intersex individuals, potentially requiring them to carry identification documents that do not align with their gender identity. Such a definition could also impact access to gender-affirming care and other services.

### Restrictions on LGBTQ+ Support

The bill includes provisions to stop funding youth homeless shelters that specifically assist LGBTQ+ individuals and families as well as language that decreases funding for harm reduction efforts. The bill also mandates that all materials with LGBTQ+ content be made inaccessible to minors in public libraries. Lastly, the bill seeks to prohibit the display of Pride flags on government buildings, limiting visible support for the LGBTQ+ community.

### Changes to Education

The bill proposes restructuring the State Board of Education by eliminating 11 elected positions and reducing the number of appointed members to 5. This shift could centralize control and diminish public representation in educational policymaking.

### Reallocation of Cannabis Tax Revenue

The bill alters the distribution of marijuana tax revenues, diverting promised funds away from previously designated social justice and community programs. The people already voted on this.

### Anti-Life Provisions

The bill permits higher levels of lead in our drinking water. The bill restricts Medicaid reimbursement for doula services to only 6 counties with the highest infant mortality rates, potentially limiting access to these services in other regions. The bill also significantly decreases funding for mental health care programs and harm reduction efforts.

### Labor Concerns

The bill undermines collective bargaining rights for workers, prohibits faculty and staff at public universities from striking, and restricts the number of hours state employees are allowed to work from home.

### Income Tax Favoring High Earners

The budget introduces a 2.75% flat income tax, reducing rates for individuals earning over \$102,400. This change disproportionately benefits higher-income individuals while offering minimal relief to lower-income residents. The shift may also reduce state revenue, potentially impacting funding for essential public services.

### Cuts to Public Services

The bill arbitrarily reduces funding for essential services, including public education, childcare, healthcare, and food assistance programs. Simultaneously, it allocates substantial funds—reportedly a \$600 million handout—to billionaire interests.

#### Lack of Coordination in Public Benefit Programs

HB96 maintains provisions that will likely impede the coordination and efficiency of public benefit systems, including Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, and WIC. The bill's language could lead to fragmented services, making it even more challenging for individuals to access comprehensive support.