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Iowa Politics: What's up with the state budget?

Des Moines Register <noreply@reply.desmoinesregister.com>

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Iowa Politics

Thu Apr 6 2023



Katie Akin | Politics Reporter

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Good morning,

It's April, and you know what that means: it's time for the annual state budget negotiations to begin!

Generally, the governor, the House and the Senate all come to the table with different budgets for the various state departments. The

numbers are often pretty close with a Republican trifecta.

Gov. Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Senate proposed an overall state budget of \$8.487 billion. House Republicans proposed an overall budget of \$8.579 billion, which is about \$93 million higher.

However, unlike Reynolds and the House, the Senate has yet to release specifics on their budget plan. This week, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced several "shell" bills without any actual numbers.

Sen. Tim Kraayenbrink, chair of the Appropriations Committee, said they were trying to make sure the budget bills properly reflect the state government realignment before deciding on individual budget targets. He also said moving the bills sends a message to the House that the Senate is ready to get going on budget negotiations.

Kraayenbrink said he was not aware of the House budget targets released the week before, but he said he's eager to get the process moving.

"I hope it's soon so we can get out of here on time," he told reporters on Monday. "I think everybody is anxious for that."

Hypothetically, the final day of session is April 28, when lawmakers stop getting paid for per diem expenses. But it's common for the session to stretch several weeks longer as leaders negotiate final deals.

This is Katie, nervously waiting to see what hurdles await us in the final (or not-so-final) weeks at the Capitol. We'll keep you updated about the budget and everything else Iowa Legislature in this newsletter and on our website.

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Democrats hold just 36 of the 100 seats in the Iowa House, meaning they lack the power to enact their agenda without Republican support.

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Congressman Zach Nunn and his wife, Kelly Nunn, adopt their foster daughters

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Kim Reynolds praises Iowa women's basketball team after NCAA final

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds said Tuesday she could not be more proud of the Iowa women's basketball team and coach Lisa Bluder.

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The Johnson County GOP and University of Iowa Republicans hosted the Iowa native as she spoke in Iowa City Wednesday night.

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