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State Legislators Start To Address Budget Shortfalls

(KAIR)--State lawmakers will start work this week on a bill that would address a significant revenue shortfall in this year's budget.

State Representative Jerry Henry says the House Appropriations Committee is working on the rescission bill in an attempt to close the projected \$280 million shortfall for this year's budget. The bill includes a possible plan to take nearly \$100 million from the Kansas Department of Transportation's budget, money that was planned to be used for roads and bridges.

The Cummings Democrat adds that there are several other suggestions included in the bill that could raise the needed funds. He says that "The Governor has requested that we delay funding some of the KPERS programs...that means that the KPERS funding that we need to kind of fill the hole will not be available. And then, he has requested that all government agencies take an additional four percent cut for this year, so they will have to cut four percent out of their budget between now and the end of June...We also found \$55 million in the Department of Health and Environment, that has been secured from drug rebate programs".

Henry says that the Committee hopes to have the bill ready to be passed to the House floor later this week for further action.

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