

## Budget Accord Enacted

July 20, 2011 by [John A. Knapp](#)

At 9:00 this morning, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton signed into law a dozen budget bills passed in a 13 hour special legislative session which began yesterday at 3:00 pm. These bills provide funding for state government operations for the next two years in the amount of \$35.4 billion. The Legislature passed the bills as agreed to by Governor Dayton, without amendment.

State employees are expected to begin returning to work on Thursday, although some agencies may phase-in their start-ups. Road construction projects, for example, may require a longer start-up period than other agency operations. State parks are expected to begin opening on Thursday.

The 20-day government shutdown was the longest in state history and possibly the longest ever for any state government. However, the reliance for the budget solution on one-time borrowing indicates that the state budget troubles are not necessarily over. Fine-tuning of this year's budget solution can be expected at the 2012 Minnesota session.