

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET SUMMARY

Gov. Eliot Spitzer's 2008-09 state budget proposal calls for spending a total \$124.3 billion, up by 5.1 percent from this year. Here are some of the highlights.

NEW MONEYS

Raising another \$1.1 billion with "one-time" revenues, such as rights to add video lottery terminals at Belmont Racetrack in Long Island and selling property near the Javits Convention Center in Manhattan.

EDUCATION

Increasing education spending by \$1.46 billion or 7.4 percent, for a total of \$21 billion. Upstate school districts will benefit from major infusions of money.

HEALTHCARE

Cutting health-care spending by about \$980 million, including \$500 million less for hospitals and nursing homes. Last year the administration saved over \$1 billion in health care costs.

Added an additional \$37 million to pay for health insurance for 400,000 un-insured children.

TAXES

Establishing a state commission to recommend ways to implement a cap on school property tax increases.

EXPENDITURES & FEE INCREASES

Saving about \$1.4 billion through "government efficiencies," such as a reduction in annual costs of state agencies, closing underutilized correctional and mental health facilities and lowering energy costs.

Raising \$305 million from 46 fee increases, such as raising from \$5 to \$20 the fee on the first time purchase of auto insurance. Others include a residential transfer fee ranging from \$75 for homes up to \$175,000, to \$425 for homes worth more over \$1 million, a commercial real estate transfer tax ranging from \$165 for properties worth up to \$175,000, to \$750 for properties worth over \$1 million, a \$20 on new international drivers licenses', and new tax on retail sales on the internet (online retailers, who presently don't pay NY sales tax, leave it up to consumers to pay state and county sales tax).

HIGHER EDUCATION

Setting up a \$4 billion higher education endowment fund that would be funded through a sale or lease of the state lottery. Tuition would not increase at the State University of New York or City University.