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Educators Face More Cuts Due to State Budget Woes

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Trouble looms over the state government as analysts predict a budget deficit of 300-million dollars for the next fiscal year. Analysts say what once looked like the road to economic recovery has now hit another speed bump. It's a vicious cycle of extreme budget woes- the aftermath of a nearly 1.8 billion dollar deficit last year led to a government shutdown. This year state officials expect a 19-million dollar shortfall. Next year analysts say the projected impact of a 300-million dollar deficit will hit hard.

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Patrick Anderson, CEO of Anderson Economic Group: "We've set ourselves on a track where we've raised taxes, did not deal with our spending problems and we're headed back again into a big budget deficit."

The gloomy forecast comes from a report released by the house fiscal agency.

Patrick Anderson: "The house fiscal agency is telling us what we should have known for a long time, which is the tax revenue is growing slowly, but state spending is growing rapidly."

Expert Patrick Anderson, CEO of Anderson Economic Group, says in a state number one for unemployment, the government failed to do its job, which was to balance the budget and control spending. Now analysts say the money from that projected 300-million dollar deficit has to be made up somewhere, and will be taken from the services that need it the most.

Patrick Anderson: "We're losing businesses, we're losing jobs, companies are having to cut back."

Now with spending for schools, businesses and other government services in jeopardy, Anderson says we're in a hole so deep it will be difficult for the state to dig out.

Patrick Anderson: "If everybody in Lansing was elected to either adopt a budget or control spending did their job, we would be out of this problem."

Fiscal experts and Governor Granholm's administration will meet Friday to agree on how much tax revenue the state government can expect to collect this year and next.

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