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Legislature OKs \$383 million capital outlay for Michigan college and university projects

By [Dustin Walsh](#)

The Michigan Legislature passed a final capital outlay bill today, approving 23 infrastructure projects at universities and community colleges.

The state will fund \$383 million of the nearly \$1 billion in projects at 11 universities and 12 community colleges, with no one project receiving more than \$30 million.

The \$383 million in new debt will require \$35 million a year from the state's general fund to be used toward debt payments.

Michigan currently has a \$609 million debt cap available to finance projects, according to the **State Building Authority**.

The previous capital outlay bill was forced back into committee late last month because of a gap between House and Senate versions of the bill. The House bill would have put the state's funding of the projects at \$609.8 million, while the Senate version called for \$326.8 million.

The final bill passed the House with a 56-38 vote and passed the Senate with a 25-7 vote.

The bill now awaits Gov. Jennifer Granholm's approval, expected in the next week.

"This is certainly a compromise," Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau and chair of the Senate Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee, told **Gongwer News Service** after the vote. "It's not perfect. But we're well below the cap."

Senate Republicans oppose the bill because of the added debt when the state is facing a \$1.6 billion budget shortfall in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Rep. Chuck Moss, R-Birmingham and GOP leader on the House Appropriations Committee, issued a statement this morning condemning the bill's passage.

"At a time when Michigan is bleeding jobs and trying to find ways to reduce our massive budget deficit, it is the height of irresponsibility to push through pet projects worth hundreds of millions," Moss said in the statement.

The projects receiving approval and the state's estimated outlay for the projects:

- **Oakland University** engineering center, \$30 million.
- **University of Michigan-Ann Arbor's** G.G. Brown Memorial Laboratories renovation, \$30 million.

Courtesy Wayne State



Wayne State University is on track to get \$30 million for a Multidisciplinary Biomedical Research Building.



Courtesy University of Michigan-Dearborn

Computer and Information Science building at the University of Michigan-Dearborn

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- **University of Michigan-Dearborn's** science and computer information building renovations, \$30 million.
- **University of Michigan-Flint's** Murchie Science Laboratory Building renovations, \$16.6 million.
- **Wayne State University's** Multidisciplinary Biomedical Research Building, \$30 million.
- **Macomb Community College's** Health Science and Technology Building project, \$7.25 million.
- **Henry Ford Community College's** science building improvements project, \$7.5 million.
- **Central Michigan University's** biosciences building, \$30 million.
- **Grand Valley State University's** classroom and office additions, \$30 million.
- **Lake Superior State University's** School of Business building, \$15 million.
- **Michigan State University's** plant science facilities and bioeconomy additions and renovations, \$30 million.
- **Northern Michigan University's** Jamrich Hall modernization, \$25.4 million.
- **Alpena Community College's** electrical power technology and training center, \$2.5 million.
- **Bay de Noc Community College's** nursing lab and lecture hall remodeling, \$750,000.
- **Delta College's** health and wellness wing renovations, \$9.9 million.
- **Gogebic Community College's** building renovations, \$750,000.
- **Grand Rapids Community College's** Cook Academic Hall renovation, \$5 million.
- **Jackson Community College's** student services and instructional classrooms, \$9.75 million.
- **Lansing Community College's** arts and sciences building renovation, \$9.9 million.
- **Mid-Michigan Community College's** Mount Pleasant campus unification — \$8.852 million
- **North Central Michigan College's** Health Education and Science Center project — \$5.214 million
- **Monroe County Community College's** technology center project — \$8.5 million
- **Ferris State University's** College of Pharmacy — \$6.6 million