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Date

Tift Money Still In Budget

The Georgia House of Representatives passed a budget last week that includes the \$7.5 million earmarked for renovations of the former Tift College campus in Forsyth as part of Gov. Sonny Perdue's plan to move the headquarters of the Department of Corrections out of Atlanta.

According to State Representative Jim Cole, whose district includes part of Monroe County, getting the budget passed with the \$7.5 million intact was not without challenges, but the completed house budget is now in the hands of the Senate.

"I'm relieved that we kept the budget intact," Cole said. "But the job is not done. I'm going to work closely with our senators over there to make the money stays in the budget."

The version of the budget passed by the House will studied by the Senate budget subcommittee which will make a recommendation to the full

Senate for a vote.

Cole said that he expects the Senate to complete its work on the budget this week.

If the Senate makes changes to the budget, a budget subcommittee made up of three members from both bodies will be charged with coming up with compromises that both can agree on.

If the Senate keeps the \$7.5 million in the budget, it will be given to Gov. Sonny Perdue for his approval. Since Gov. Perdue supports the plan to move the headquarters of the Department of Corrections to Forsyth, it is unlikely that he would veto a line item earmarked for that project.