

The Joint Finance Committee voted 12 to 4 this week to send the full 2013-2015 budget to the Assembly. Both houses expect to act on the budget in time for the package to take effect on July first as scheduled. Senator Jennifer Shilling sits on the committee and is angered by the fact a comprehensive and cost saving health care plan was shot down.

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She says the Democratic budget alternative would have provided affordable health coverage for 85 thousand low income individuals. Shilling says additionally, all taxpayers will see their health costs go up as a result of the Republican decision to increase emergency room visits and restrict access to preventive care.