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Illinois Passes \$40 Billion Budget Counting on Federal Help.

- **Spending plan allows loans from Fed facility to fill gap**
- **Legislature also approved new tax structure for Chicago casino**

Illinois lawmakers early Sunday approved a budget of about \$40 billion for the year starting in July that relies on federal loans to close the revenue shortfall exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

The budget for fiscal 2021 maintains most funding levels from a year earlier, and boosts pension payments and spending on health and human services along with some other agencies that are seeing increased demand due to the pandemic and resulting unemployment. It expects to close the projected deficit of as much as \$7.4 billion partly by borrowing as much as \$5 billion from the Federal Reserve's Municipal Liquidity Facility.

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