

Capitol News Special Session Report

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The Legislature adjourned its third special session last Thursday, the last day of the third special session, without completing its business. Among the items left on the to-do list is the very important capital budget. This budget provides funding for projects throughout the state, such as K-12 school construction, higher education construction, and mental health capacity construction. It is typically the least contentious of the state budgets to pass.

So what happened? The capital budget was tied to an unrelated bill on water rights, with some legislators insisting on a resolution to that issue before the capital budget could be considered. The Legislature was unable to come to agreement on the water rights bill, so neither that bill nor the capital budget passed last Thursday.

What happens next? Governor Inslee is ready to call legislators back when there is an agreement on the water rights bill. Once that agreement is reached, legislators will vote on the capital budget. When that will be is anyone's guess.