

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC
June 5, 2007

■ VALLEY & STATE online print edition



Legislators budget their time

Jun. 5, 2007 12:00 AM

The Arizona Legislature's leaders are giving rank-and-file members time off now that the regular session has dragged into June without a new state budget in sight.

Normally, the Legislature works Mondays through Thursdays during its months-long session, but the House and the Senate met only briefly Monday before adjourning until Thursday. There was a similar intermission last week.

With action complete on most of the bills that will be passed this session, leaders are going behind closed doors for hours at a stretch as they try to forge a final budget compromise. So there's little for most senators and representatives to do.

Aside from approving a new state budget, which is constitutionally required and the Legislature's most important duty, other unresolved issues include proposed legislation on air pollution, workers' compensation benefits and sanctions against employers who hire illegal immigrants.

Although lawmakers had hoped to end the session in April, the effective deadline to approve a budget is June 30, the last day of the current fiscal year.