

House leader awaits Fiscal Office analysis

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The sponsor of Gov. Bobby Jindal's tax package said Monday that fiscal analysis of the plan will be key to the package's success, but that the governor's influence also carries weight.

"If the governor's pushing something, it's never dead on arrival," state Rep. Joel Robideaux said. "I'm not arguing that there's not hurdles or there's not a lot of fixes that need to be made."

Robideaux, R-Lafayette, stopped short of declaring that the package meets the governor's goal of generating enough revenue to support a state budget that funds hospitals, colleges and other public services. The governor has said the complicated plan of tax swaps will be revenue neutral, ensuring there is no effect on the budget.

Robideaux said he awaits the Legislative Fiscal Office's number-crunching determination. The office is staffed with economists who look at the financial effect of proposed legislation.

"I'm not going to say it's revenue neutral until I've gotten the numbers from the Fiscal Office," Robideaux said.

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