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**Madigan's aide collects major pay bonuses; House speaker gave him an extra $35,000 on top of $130,000**

By Dave McKinney

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SPRINGFIELD-House Speaker Michael Madigan's top legislative aide received $35,000 in bonuses last year, including during a period when Gov. Ryan was cutting services to the poor because of the state's deepening budget crisis.

Aides to Senate President James "Pate" Philip (R-Wood Dale) and Senate Minority Leader Emil Jones (D-Chicago) also got bonuses last year but not on the scale given to Madigan's chief of staff, Timothy Mapes.

Mapes received a $15,000 payment last June and got an additional $20,000 added to his paycheck last Christmas Eve, enabling him to boost his $129,468 base salary last year by 27 percent, state payroll records show.

"Here's a guy who's already making far more than the average Illinois taxpayer, and he is given a huge bonus of $35,000 for doing what we're already paying him to do anyway. I think that's outrageous," said Terrance Norton, executive director of the Better Government Association. "It reinforces the sad fact that Mr. Madigan and others regard taxpayer dollars as their own."

Madigan spokesman Steve Brown said the payments were in recognition of the demands associated with helping run the Illinois House and, in particular, for the effort Mapes put into overseeing the highly politicized task of redrawing legislative boundaries last year.

"You're asking people to work many nights and most weekends, and it seems perfectly appropriate," Brown said. "I think Tim does a superior job compared to his counterparts."

By comparison, Philip's chief of staff, Carter Hendren, got $6,000 in bonuses last year, while Jones' chief of staff, Courtney Nottage, got $5,000. That such payouts even exist was news to some lawmakers, who are intimately involved in helping assemble the state budget. None wanted to speak on the record, however, saying they feared possible retribution.

"I find the whole idea that there's a performance pay program that no one knows about troubling," said one veteran legislator, who requested anonymity. "If you wanted to pay that bonus, why not pay it out of a political fund? By December, [Madigan] knew the state was in bad financial shape. But it's like a game for these guys: How much can they lay off on the state? It's not like they're without other resources. That's what disgusts me."

Mapes has been paid out of several campaign funds that Madigan controls. Since 1999, he has received more than $35,000 from Madigan's personal campaign account and the state Democratic Party campaign fund for work as a campaign staff member, state election records show.

State employees who are part of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, a close Madigan ally, are not typically eligible for bonus pay, said Henry Bayer, executive director of the state's largest employee union.

But Bayer, who has spoken out against pay raises for Gov. Ryan's Cabinet when the union is being asked to make cutbacks, didn't criticize Mapes' bonuses. "I'll be honest with you, I don't like to advocate cutting anybody's pay. . . ," he said.

"Philosophically, it's not an approach I'd take, but different people design different pay schemes."