

From: The Council of State Governments <data@csg.org>
To: Kester, Tony<Kester@aging.sc.gov>
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Body Camera Laws Raise Questions about Access to Footage

In the wake of several high-profile incidents involving the injury or death of citizens during altercations with law enforcement, policymakers and the American public increasingly are calling for the use of body cameras by law enforcement officers. While support for such a requirement is strong and more police departments are expected to adopt body cameras, one question is fiercely divisive: Who should have access to footage recorded on police body cameras?

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Attacking the Opioid Crisis with Policies, Education

Opioid overdose deaths are on the rise across the United States, with overdose rates tripling since 2000. Driving the upward trajectory of overdose deaths are two interrelated trends, according to the CDC: the 15-year-long increase in deaths related to prescription pain relievers and a recent surge in illicit drugs, largely heroin and, more recently, fentanyl. State leaders and medical experts say the fight against drug abuse must be waged on many fronts.

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Pok  mon Go Could Lure Voters in 2016 Election

Across the nation the Pok  mon Go craze is sweeping people off their feet and out of their houses. Businesses have caught on, purchasing "lures" as a way to attract Pok  mon creatures to their location—and to attract consumers to their business. In an election year in which both party's presidential nominees have unprecedented disapproval ratings, our nation's future could come down to voter turnout. And this has candidates wondering, can I catch more than Pok  mon with a Pok  mon lure—could I catch some voters, too?

States Combat Human Trafficking with Victim-Focused Legislation

During The Council of State Governments' eCademy webcast, "Human Trafficking—How States are Responding," panelists discussed legislation, task forces and funding to combat human trafficking at the state level. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which people, often children, are forced into sex work or other labor. The Polaris Project, a nonprofit organization that works to combat human trafficking, estimates that the number of adults and children being forced into labor in the United States numbers in the hundreds of thousands.

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CSG Salutes Team USA!

As the 2016 Olympic Games kick off in Rio de Janeiro, CSG salutes the 554 athletes representing the United States of America. With 554 athletes, representing 46 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands, here's a state-by-state look at the men and women of Team USA who are going for gold in Rio!

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Governors Salaries, 2016

The Council of State Governments has been collecting data on gubernatorial salaries for *The Book of the States* since 1937. The average governor's salary grew more slowly during and after the Great Recession, with many states instituting a ban on cost-of-living adjustments; however, as the fiscal health of states has improved, the annual increases normally seen in executive branch pay are returning to a more historically customary level in some states, particularly those that provide cost-of-living adjustments annually.

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Costs and Benefits of the Glen Canyon Dam

A new study conducted by the economic research group Power Consulting suggests that the overall costs of operating the Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River in northern Arizona may outweigh the benefits of increased electricity production. The Glen Canyon Dam, completed in 1963, was built to store and deliver water to the arid regions of the Lower Colorado River Basin, as well as provide electricity to surrounding regions and other selected contractors.

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Mississippi Speaker Philip Gunn Named SLC Chair

Mississippi Speaker of the House Philip Gunn was named 2016-2017 chair of CSG's Southern Legislative Conference and Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard was named chair elect for 2016-2017 during the SLC's 70th Annual Meeting, which convened July 9-13 in Lexington, Kentucky. Gunn takes the gavel from Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers, who served as the SLC 2015-2016 chair. Among his many duties as 2016-2017 chair, Gunn will host the SLC's 71st Annual Meeting, July 29-Aug. 2, 2017, in Biloxi, Mississippi. Senate President Pro Tem Richard and the Missouri General Assembly will host the 72nd Annual Meeting of the SLC in St. Louis in 2018.

Building the Grid of the Future:

How Technology Can Help

Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2 p.m. EDT

FREE CSG eCademy Webcast

REGISTER HERE

Autonomous Vehicles & Insurance:

Public Policy Considerations Ahead

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2016, 2 p.m. EDT

FREE CSG eCademy Webcast presented in partnership with the Griffith Insurance

Education Foundation

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How Permanent Trust Funds Help States Save for the Long Term

Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2 p.m. EDT

FREE CSG eCademy presented by

CSG West

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Adopting Medicaid Policies to Encourage Long-Acting Reversible Contraception

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2 p.m. EDT

FREE CSG eCademy Webcast

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Toll Free: 1-800-800-1910

Email: Membership@csg.org

www.csg.org

The Council of State Governments

1776 Avenue of the States

Lexington, KY 40511



The Council of State Governments, 1776 Avenue of the States, Lexington, KY 40511

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