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REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

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Energy and Environment

(Maine) Governor Issues Executive Order to Identify Risks Associated with Ethanol Use ([The Maine Wire](#)) – Governor Paul R. LePage has issued an Executive Order in an effort to better understand the human health risks and effects of emissions produced by the combustion of ethanol containing gasoline and the effect of increasing ethanol blends on emissions. The Executive Order follows federal mandates, which have resulted in increased domestic production and use of ethanol in gasoline. Governor LePage recently signed the Order saying it is essential to understand the environmental and human health effects of ethanol emissions. "It's important that with the increased use of ethanol mixed gasoline that we understand the environmental and health risks associated with it. This Executive Order will help identify data so we can make better informed decisions regarding the use of ethanol," said Governor LePage.

Economic Development

Ducey emphasis on Mexican trade highlights need for Arizona to expand exports ([The Phoenix Business Journal](#)) - "The governor has made the Arizona-Mexico relationship a key focus of his administration," said gubernatorial spokesman Daniel Ruiz. "(He led) the first gubernatorial delegation to Mexico City in a decade, (and is) building a close and cooperative partnership with Sonoran Gov. Claudia Pavlovich. By boosting economic and diplomatic ties with our neighbors to the south, we are positioning the mega-region to be the most competitive in the world." It's that mega-region that is getting a serious look from businesses seeking economic growth beyond what's capable in-state. "Arizona and Sonora are naturally-joined regions," said Roberto Rodriguez Hernandez, Mexican general consul in Phoenix. "There are so many connections between families and businesses. The supply chain in aerospace and automotive parts is a strong connection between the two states." Ducey has taken a number of actions to strengthen relations and trade. His appointment of Marcos Garay as executive director for the AMC put a binational banking and trade executive in the leadership role. Garay is a citizen of both the U.S. and Mexico. David Farca, chair of the commission has business interests in both nations.

Gov. Bill Haslam and state Economic and Community Development Commissioner have been on a trip to Ireland for economic recruitment ([AP](#)) – Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and state Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd have been on a trip to Ireland for economic recruitment. Haslam spokeswoman Jennifer Donnals said in an email that Haslam and Boyd were in Dublin on Monday meeting with Irish government officials and business leaders. She was not more specific about what kind of economic recruitment they were doing. They ended the evening by seeing the cast of the show "Nashville" in concert in Dublin and were brought up on stage by the performers. Donnals said it was a coincidence that the show was being held the same day the governor decided to visit Ireland. Haslam used the opportunity to promote tourism to Nashville and Tennessee.

Public Safety

(Alabama) Sentencing changes coming for juvenile Capital Murder offenders ([The Dothan First](#)) – A major change to Alabama sentencing guidelines for juveniles who commit capital murder. Since 2012 at least 16 states have responded by changing their laws. "They ruled that [previous law] was un constitutional, that they couldn't have just one sentence over their head, they had to have another option," said Pat Jones. The option include life without parole or life with parole, but the convicted wouldn't be eligible for parole until they complete at least 30 years behind bars," said Pat Jones. Pat Jones a fighter for victims calls this a major victory. "You know a lot of people talk and say this needs to be changed it doesn't get done on it's own," said Jones.

6 Months After Ducey's #Deadbeat Initiative Goes Live, Arizona Evaders Are Paying Up ([KJZZ](#)) - In his State of the State speech in January, ARizona Gov. Doug Ducey said he would hold deadbeat parents accountable on social media. Nearly six months later, the governor's plan to call out and catch child support evaders seems to be working. When Gov. Ducey announced the Department of Economic Security (DES) would start posting the photos of deadbeat parents along with the hashtag "deadbeat" on its Twitter and Facebook, it made national news. Today, the initiative is still going strong, and the governor's office says it's doing what Ducey intended. "A total of 11 parents have been located. We've posted 66 parents

online thus far, and we'll continue to do that. Those include seven women and 59 men," said Tasya Peterson with DES. She said more than \$38,000 in past due child support has been collected so far.

Gov. Baker will file bill making assault and battery on a police officer a felony ([The Herald News](#)) - Gov. Charlie Baker plans to file legislation making assault and battery on a police officer a felony rather than a misdemeanor, the governor said during a recent radio interview. "Literally just laying a hand on somebody" and "unwanted touching of any kind" can currently be considered assault and battery, Baker said during a June 9 appearance with Nightside host Dan Rea on WBZ radio, and the legal categorization of the crime needs to be updated to treat more seriously instances where individuals strike or attack police officers. "I think if you just put your hands on a police officer that's different than striking him or her or literally attacking him or her, and I think that ought to be dealt with more significantly. I think you can expect us to file legislation to make anything more significant than sort of the traditional definition of this, on a police officer, a felony," Baker said.

Massachusetts prisoner rehabilitation program lauded ([The Boston Globe](#)) - From the moment inmates are incarcerated in the Hampden County Correctional Center system, the Sheriff's Department is preparing them to get out — and stay out. Employment is key. Shortly after they arrive, inmates get a manila folder for the vocational certificates and résumés they will be pushed to complete behind bars. Many earn the right to finish their sentences while living at home or in unlocked facilities, often holding down full-time jobs in the community. Once they are released, the ex-offenders have access to a support center in Springfield staffed by Sheriff's Department employees and community service providers who help them with food stamps and housing, as well as haircuts, interview suits, and other resources. Hampden County is often held up as a national model for rehabilitating inmates. Pioneered by social worker-turned-county sheriff Michael Ashe, the program focuses on preparing inmates to join the workforce, often for the first time, while addressing mental illness, substance abuse, and other needs. Governor Charlie Baker recently proposed spending \$1 million to expand the Western Massachusetts re-entry model statewide.

Education

'GenCyber: Girls in Cybersecurity' camp kicks off in South Dakota ([KSFY](#)) — A unique summer camp for girls started Monday at Dakota State University (DSU) in Madison for teens interested in cyber security and related fields. As our use of technology expands around the globe, so does the need for more qualified workers to help maintain it. There's a shortage of women and the GenCyber 'Girls in Cybersecurity' camp hopes to change that. "I really want to see how hacking works. Also to enforce my technology and engineering," Camper Daysha Walker said. Daysha is from Chicago and credits her parents for signing her up. "They were like 'go code'. I started and thought this was awesome. Started coding in Java," Walker said. Organizers say that's the idea behind this experience. "This has been an effort of the governor of myself to encourage STEM within women in South Dakota especially 7th through 9th grade girls. Our daughter is an electrical engineer. We started sending her to camps early on. Just to keep science on the forefront. It's largely a male-dominated area here and we want to change that," South Dakota's First Lady Linda Daugaard said.

(Utah) Governor touts education as key to state tech future ([The Deseret News](#)) - Utah needs to make a sustained effort to create a technology workforce pipeline through education. That was the message trumpeted by Gov. Gary Herbert at an event to raise money to support underprivileged children at an area grade school. Herbert joined several local business and tech leaders in serving a pancake breakfast to members of the community to raise money for Edison Elementary, one of Utah's Title I Schools. A high percentage of children at the school are from low-income families. "Education is the key to our success economically going forward," he said in remarks to about 200 people following the breakfast. The state has invested an additional \$1.8 billion in education over the past five years, he said. "We need to keep having that kind of commitment for money and resources" he said. "We've got to attract the best and brightest (teachers) in the classroom and retain them. That means we probably have to increase teacher salaries some to accomplish that."

Healthcare

Governor Ricketts unveils 'business plan' for social services agency ([The York News-Times](#)) — Nebraska's social services agency is making a series of changes in an effort to become more efficient and responsive to its users under a plan unveiled Monday by Gov. Pete Ricketts. The 25-part "business plan" for the Department of Health and Human Services is a formal list of priorities and goals for the agency through June 2017, many of which are already underway. "No matter how well we are doing today, we can always do better tomorrow," Ricketts said at a press conference. Some of the goals include reducing out-of-home placements for at-risk youth, expanding the use of a prescription drug monitoring program to prevent overdoses and starting construction on the new Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney.

Governor McCrory Signs Bill To Increase Availability Of Naloxone ([WFAE](#)) - Governor Pat McCrory signed a bill into law Monday to address one aspect of the opioid epidemic. The bipartisan legislation makes an overdose reversal drug much easier to get. Since the early 2000s, opioid-related deaths have soared in North Carolina and across the country. That includes overdoses from prescription pain relievers and heroine. In 2013, North Carolina legalized a drug called naloxone that reverses overdoses. The goal is to save lives so that people can then get treatment. But naloxone's distribution has been piecemeal through some doctors and organizations. The bill Governor McCrory signed aims to change that. It creates a standing order for any pharmacy in the state to prescribe naloxone to anyone who says they're at risk of overdosing or who knows someone at risk. It passed unanimously in the House and Senate, and two other states have passed the same kind of

order.

States turn to former patients to fill mental health gaps ([The Argus Leader](#)) - In at least 30 states, including Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and North Dakota, former mental health patients are being trained to help fill workforce gaps and improve care under a new certification known as peer support specialists. The model offers a possible solution to staffing problems at the state's mental health hospital in Yankton, where violence against employees has contributed to high turnover and dozens of open positions, an Argus Leader Media investigation found. "That has been on my agenda for years," said Phyllis Arends, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Sioux Falls. "It brings such credibility to someone who is in a mental health crisis if a person who's actually walked in those shoes talks to you about the importance taking their medical and following treatment."

Zika vaccine approved for first human testing ([The Hill](#)) - Two companies announced Monday that they have received the first approval to test a Zika vaccine on humans. While the approval from the Food and Drug Administration is early in the long process of approving a vaccine for widespread use, it is a step forward in finding a vaccine for the virus, which has become a global health emergency. The companies, Inovio Pharmaceuticals and GeneOne Life Science, said they plan to begin testing their vaccine on humans within "weeks." Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health has said that the larger phase II clinical trials on the vaccine are likely to begin in early 2017 and be done by the start of 2018 at the earliest. Funding for vaccine research is one of the aspects of the \$1.9 billion the White House requested to Congress.