

From: RGPPC <RGPPC@rgppc.org>
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REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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Recommended Reads

McCrory to ask Supreme Court to weigh in on voter ID decision ([WBTV](#))- North Carolina governor Pat McCrory says the state will ask the Supreme Court to weigh in on the voter ID law after an appeals court decided it won't delay enforcement of its ruling striking down the state's photo identification requirement and other election restrictions, including reducing early in-person voting by seven days. "Changing our state's election laws close to the upcoming election, including common sense voter ID, will create confusion for voters and poll workers," Governor Pat McCrory said in a statement Friday afternoon. "The court should have stayed their ruling, which is legally flawed, factually wrong, and disparaging to our state. Therefore, by early next week, we will be asking the U.S. Supreme Court to stay the ruling of the Court of Appeals."

Healthcare

(Alabama) Governor's office approves emergency funding to fight Zika ([WBRC](#))- The governor's office says the governor has approved the use of emergency funds up to \$250,000 to fight mosquitoes and the Zika virus. Gov. Robert Bentley said in a statement Friday that the Alabama Department of Public Health had requested assistance with its Zika mitigation funding. Bentley says he doesn't necessarily think the agency will need the money, but wanted to make sure it was available so the state could move quickly if need be. So far, Florida is the only state with local transmission of the Zika virus. But the state's health officer, Tom Miller, says it's "very likely" Alabama will have local transmission of the virus through mosquitoes similar to what Florida is experiencing.

Gov. Rick Scott Asks CDC For More Zika Protection Kits ([WLRN](#))- Governor Rick Scott and members of Florida's legislature had a Zika-related conference call Friday afternoon. Scott called to discuss the state's level of preparedness to handle the impacts from the virus's ripple effects. With more than 400 cases in Florida alone, and locally-contracted cases in Miami's Wynwood area, Scott met with the head of the Center For Disease Control in Miami Thursday. "I asked for 10,000 Zika protection kits and for whatever they can do to support," he said. Scott also said he is continuing efforts to get more federal funding to fight off the spread of the virus, in addition to 5.6 million dollars President Obama authorized two weeks ago.

Daugaard: State ready to confront meth scourge ([Rapid City Journal](#))- Over the past several years, South Dakota has seen a rise in the use of methamphetamine, or meth. In our state, 3.8 percent of high school students have tried meth. That is slightly higher than the national average of 3 percent. Approximately 15,000 South Dakotans, age 12 and up, were dependent on or abused illicit drugs in 2015, including meth. Meth is a powerful and highly addictive stimulant which affects the central nervous system and results in devastating side effects. It is a white, odorless, bitter-tasting powder and can be ingested in a variety of ways. In South Dakota, we are committed to being "smart on crime." We use data-driven, evidence-based practices to protect the public and hold offenders accountable. We also recognize that we need to be tough on the causes of crime. Using meth is a crime itself, but it can also lead users to commit other crimes. South Dakota needs to focus on preventing meth use. This month, the Department of Social Services has created an awareness campaign, "Meth Changes Everything," to promote prevention and provide education to students and South Dakota communities.

Gov. Abbott urges Obama to approve Zika funds ([CBS Austin](#))- In a letter sent to President Obama on Friday, Texas Governor Greg Abbott urged the White House to "to immediately approve the expenditure of funds for Zika virus preparedness and response," according to a press release from the governor's office. Governor Abbott asked the president to administer a portion of an available \$400 million to "sufficiently combat against the growing threat of Zika in Texas." There are currently 84 Zika cases in Texas, 20 cases reported in Dallas County, 24 in Harris County and three known cases in Travis County.

Rauner signs bill that requires teaching teens how to handle being stopped by police ([Chicago Tribune](#))- Students enrolled in driver's education courses will be required to learn how to respond if they're pulled over by police under a measure Gov. Bruce Rauner signed into law Friday. The change is aimed at preventing teens from panicking or doing anything that may be interpreted as a red flag by police, which could lead to a standard traffic stop escalating into a more serious situation. The new curriculum will be put in place for the 2017-18 school year at private and public schools that offer driver's education classes, or after June 30, 2017, for driver training schools providing instruction to teens younger than 18. It'll be up to the secretary of state's office to develop the specific guidelines.

Education

LePage Sets Sights on 'Double Dipping,' Other Education Reforms ([MPBN](#))- Gov. Paul LePage says he has more to do to right-size government in Maine, and he says education is next on his to do list. LePage says he has managed to right-size much of government in his first six years of office, but says he still faces significant challenges in his final two years as governor. He says while agencies like the Department of Health and Human Services and Transportation are working well, Maine's education system is not and needs attention. "Now I am trying to do it. The next two years I am going to focus on education. We have, in the state of Maine, a broken educational system," he says. The governor acknowledges that doing that will be difficult given most education governance is at the local level. But, he says he will push to end the practice of both superintendents and teachers retiring and then going back to work full time while receiving retirement benefits, and he also wants to improve teacher quality.

Energy

Governor Bevin Announces Fiscal Courts Receive Refunds for Mining Permit and Acreage Fees ([WCLU](#))- Gov. Matt Bevin announced that fiscal courts in 33 counties will receive refunds totaling \$179,900 from mining permit and acreage fees. The Department for Natural Resources collects mining permit and acreage fees and returns a portion of the fees to coal-producing counties for projects that the fiscal courts deem beneficial to their communities. "Kentucky is a coal state," said Gov. Bevin. "This administration is committed to partnering with and supporting our coal communities and miners. These funds will directly benefit our coal-producing counties. We appreciate these counties and their hard-working miners for their efforts and look forward to continuing our work together as we fight to protect and strengthen the Commonwealth's coal industry."

Veteran Initiatives

(Kentucky) Service-disabled veteran-owned Small Business Certification Program announced ([KY Forward](#))- Gov. Matt Bevin, Finance and Administration Cabinet Sec. William M. Landrum III, bill sponsors State Reps. Dean Schamore and Russell Webber, and Department of Veteran Affairs Commissioner Norman R. Arflack participated Friday in the kickoff announcement of the new Kentucky Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (KySDVOSB) Certification program that became effective July 15. The SDVOSB Certification Program was created by House Bill 183 and is modeled after the Minority and Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) program administered by the Finance and Administration Cabinet. In order to apply for certification, a disabled veteran must provide proof of his or her disability. Kentucky's application process is streamlined if the SDVOSB is already verified and in good standing with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Verification and Evaluation, Veterans First Verification Program.