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REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

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Taxes and Budget

Governor Signs Bill To Bank Booming Revenue To Fund State During Oil Busts ([KGOU](#)) – Gov. Mary Fallin on Friday signed into law legislation that banks boom-time tax revenues to cushion the state during energy downturns. The Energy Revenues Stabilization Act was created through House Bill 2763, authored by Rep. John Montgomery, R-Lawton. The measure siphons off above-average tax revenues levied on corporations and oil and gas production and saves it in an account that can be tapped during state funding emergencies. Government funding in Oklahoma is particularly susceptible to swings in oil and gas prices, and overall tax revenue has been limited by years of tax cuts. Oil and coal downturns have hurt other states, too, but some, like North Dakota, have been buoyed by large energy savings accounts.

Energy and Environment

Governor Continues Negotiations With Feds Over Sage Grouse, Wild Horses ([ThisIsReno.com](#)) - Governor Brian Sandoval continues to negotiate with the U.S. Department of Interior over public land issues in Nevada. Sage grouse and wild horses are two main concerns. Sandoval is negotiating to alleviate pending concerns in regards to sage grouse litigation. He also sent a letter to BLM Nevada Director John Ruhs regarding wild horse overpopulation, which he said is affecting rangeland health and the health of horses. "I'm very concerned about the over-population of wild horses in Nevada, the negative impact they have on our rangeland, and the burden of the proposed solution being solely put upon the livestock industry," Sandoval wrote May 18, 2016. "Livestock grazing is carefully managed by designating limited seasons of use, allowable use levels, pasture rotations, and stocking rates. Livestock grazing is carefully monitored to achieve and maintain healthy rangeland."

Supreme Court rules against White House in water pollution case ([The Hill](#)) – The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled against the Obama administration in a case regarding water pollution permits. The nation's highest court ruled unanimously that a landowner can appeal through the federal court system a determination from the Army Corps of Engineers that a water body is subject to federal jurisdiction and permit requirements under the Clean Water Act. The court's eight justices agreed in *Army Corps of Engineers v. Hawkes Co. Inc.* that the Corps's final "jurisdictional determination" regarding a peat mining company's wetlands is a "final agency action," so the company can challenge it like any regulation. The case is likely to have consequences for the federal government's entire enforcement of the Clean Water Act, the main law regarding pollution control.

Economic Development

Deal: Apparel company thredUP bring 300-plus jobs to Gwinnett ([The Gwinnett Daily Post](#)) - A 7-year-old, San Francisco-based online consignment company is coming to the Duluth area, and it's bringing more than 300 new jobs with it, Gov. Nathan Deal announced on Tuesday. The governor said thredUP will set up a distribution warehouse in an existing facility at 2670 Breckinridge Blvd., in unincorporated Gwinnett County. The company operates as an online marketplace that buys and sells secondhand women's and children's clothing that are in "like-new" condition. "thredUP's decision to grow its business here in Georgia is a direct reflection of our first-rate workforce and the ease of access we provide to the company's online customer base," Deal said in a statement. "These are critical components for innovative companies like thredUP to continue growing. I am confident thredUP will benefit from the wealth of resources that make Georgia the No. 1 state for business."

(Kentucky) Job program to aid adults leaving foster care ([The Courier-Journal](#)) - Gov. Matt Bevin on Tuesday unveiled Fostering Success, a jobs-training program that aims to help young adults transition out of foster care and into independent life. The initiative places youths ages 18 to 23 years old in a 10-week office job at a local branch of the Kentucky Department for Community Based Service – the state agency that oversees foster care and adoption systems. Participants, which number about 100 of the 621 youth who were invited, will work full time for \$10 an hour as they accrue computer and customer service skills. At the end of the two and half months, they will meet with career and college counselors to prepare for independent living outside of foster care, according to the governor's plan. The labor cabinet will also work in conjunction

with the program to connect participants to new jobs, said Doug Hogan, the governor's spokesman.

(Kentucky) Labor cabinet promotes apprenticeship program ([The Sentinel-Echo](#)) - A program to provide trained workers for a variety of industry is being revamped under the new administration in Frankfort. Michael Nemes, Deputy Secretary for the Kentucky Labor Cabinet, was promoting the apprenticeship program across the state with visits to media and businesses on Tuesday. TRACK, the Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky, is a joint partnership between the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education and the Kentucky Labor Cabinet to give high school students opportunities to registered apprenticeship programs. Through TRACK, employers can streamline training programs for their specific needs and train students for those particular careers.

Christie signs Atlantic City rescue bills ([Press of Atlantic City](#)) – Gov. Chris Christie signed a rescue package Friday that gives this city time to avoid a state takeover, ending more than a year of wrangling over how to save the city. The takeover bill would give the city 150 days to draft a five-year fiscal plan that includes a balanced budget in 2017 to avoid a takeover. A companion bill bars casinos from appealing property taxes by allowing them to make fixed payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) for 10 years. “These new laws will ultimately accomplish my mission to reform Atlantic City's overblown municipal government, and in turn protect local and state taxpayers from being perpetually abused by the special political interests who admit to owning this city's elected officials,” Christie said in a statement.

Public Safety

Kasich signs bill allowing breaking into hot vehicles to save kids, pets ([NBC 4](#)) - Governor John Kasich signed a bill into law Tuesday that protects a person who breaks into a hot car to save a minor or a pet. Senate Bill 215 allows people to force their way into a locked vehicle if police are not able to get there in time. The law does come with some limitations, however. The person must call 911, they must check to see if the door is unlocked and if they feel it is an emergency they can break into the vehicle. “As the temperature warms up, we start getting a lot of calls about dogs in cars,” said Elyse Rathbone, Humane Agent for the Capital Area Humane Society. Hundreds of dogs die each year after being left in a hot, sweltering car. And increasingly, small children are dying after a parent forgets the child in the backseat.

(South Carolina) Proposal that limits ticket quotas by law enforcement agencies heads for Senate floor ([The Post and Courier](#)) – A bill that would block law enforcement agencies from establishing ticket quotas for their officers or creating requirements for issuing citations continues to breeze through the Legislature and with overwhelming support. The measure received resounding approval Tuesday when the Senate's Judiciary Committee sent it to the floor on a 20-0 vote. The bill already passed the House of Representatives in April on a 99-0 tally. The bill's author, Rep. Justin Bamberg, D-Bamberg, acknowledged Tuesday, however, that while the proposed law would bar police departments from instituting a quota system, officials haven't carved out a penalty for departments which violate the mandate. “I think the thrust of this movement here is to make it official that in South Carolina, quota systems are not OK and they will be formally against the law,” he said.

Education

Gov. Haley vetoes bill that keeps teacher evaluations private ([AP](#)) – Gov. Nikki Haley has vetoed legislation exempting teacher evaluations from public disclosure. The Republican governor says she recognizes the bill's intent is to protect sensitive information and promote a more candid evaluation process. But she contends the bill is too broad. Haley says that allows school districts to withhold any record related to an evaluation, including information on teacher misconduct she says should be publicly available. Haley says she's working with state Superintendent Molly Spearman on legislation that would protect teachers' privacy while also allowing “reasonable public access.”

Healthcare

(Utah) Governor signs bill increasing penalties on assault against health care worker ([KCSG](#)) - Governor Gary Herbert signed an amendment to a bill Tuesday morning that increases the penalty for assault against health care providers or emergency medical workers when the assault causes substantial bodily injury; and clarifies the culpable mental state required for the offense. The bill modifies penalties for assault against health care providers to a third degree felony if substantial bodily harm is caused by the assault. Senate Bill 106 amends the Utah Code and also creates a clause that adds to the intent of the person who "acts intentionally or knowingly" during the assault. The changes also reflect that the person who violates the victim knows that he or she is a health care provider or emergency medical service worker.