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## REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

### PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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#### Taxes and Budget

Governor Deal Signs Budget ([The Atlanta Journal Constitution](#)) - Gov. Nathan Deal came to his Hall County hometown to sign the upcoming year's \$23.7 billion budget on Monday, a spending plan that includes money to give 200,000 teachers and state employees their first substantial raises since the Great Recession. The fiscal 2017 budget, which goes into effect July 1, also includes more than \$1.6 billion to build and refurbish roads, bridges and school buildings across the state. In addition, the budget calls for the state to hire hundreds of new staffers in a wide variety of positions, from child welfare and elder abuse prevention workers to law enforcement attacking cyberterrorism.

Gov. Dalrymple to request reduced budgets ([Inforum](#)) – For the first time since 2002, North Dakota's governor will ask state agencies to propose smaller budgets for the next biennium as uncertainty looms over how soon the oil and farm sectors that drive the state's economy and tax revenues will rebound. Dalrymple spokesman Jeff Zent wouldn't get into details but said the guidelines "will lead to a sound budget proposal for the Legislative Assembly," which meets in regular session every two years, next in January 2017. "To do that, the governor will certainly address the state's recent shortfall in tax revenues," Zent said.

#### Energy and Environment

Disaster Response Bill Awaits Branstad's Signature ([KIOW](#)) – After a major weather incident – like the tornado that hit Stanton in southwestern Iowa last week – water, food and shelter can suddenly be in short supply, and volunteers from faith-based and community organizations usually rally to help their neighbors. But the goal of Senate File 492 on Governor Branstad's desk is to better coordinate emergency relief efforts. Tiffany Keimig, with the Iowa Community Action Association, says when help is needed quickly, figuring out how and where to get it can be confusing. The legislation gives the Iowa Department of Human Services the authority to coordinate case-management services, or hire local groups to do that, and allocates money from the state's Economic Emergency Fund.

#### Economic Development

Ducey proclaims Arizona Travel and Tourism Week ([AZ Business Magazine](#)) – "Arizona is a great state with unparalleled assets, and tourism highlights the very best of our state and our people to the world," said Governor Ducey. "As Arizona's largest export and a vital economic driver, tourism creates thousands of jobs and brings in billions in revenue all while promoting our reputation as one of the top places in the country to live, work, do business, recreate and retire." For Arizona, the economic benefits from tourism are far-reaching. In 2014, 40.7 million domestic and international overnight visitors experienced Arizona as a travel destination. Spending generated by these visitors contributed directly to Arizona's economy, impacting and improving the quality of life for statewide residents. According to early indicators, Arizona is on track for an even stronger impact from 2015 travel activity.

Startups Pitch Ideas to Governor Rauner ([WMBD](#)) - Rauner popped into "The Nest" a shared workspace for startup companies in Peoria. Rauner says with more than 30 years in the business world before switching over into public service, he can relate to the amount of risk and sacrifice that goes into starting a business. Rauner added that his job as governor is to create an environment for them to thrive and he applauded innovative spaces like "The Nest". "These sorts of entrepreneurial incubators are key to our economic growth all over the state of Illinois they are wonderful opportunities for budding entrepreneurs to be with each other talk to each other get advice from each other get introductions key advisors from each other and help each other to mutual success." Rauner said.

Governor Abbott Announces Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Headquarters Relocation To Texas ([The Gilmer Mirror](#)) - Governor Greg Abbott today announced that Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) is relocating its U.S. headquarters from New York to Texas. MHI is one of the world's leading industrial firms, providing services and products across a wide range of industries including energy, transportation, aerospace and aviation. The new Houston headquarters will oversee

MHI operations throughout North America. "Texas is home to around 1,200 MHI Group employees and we are honored that they have chosen Houston for their new U.S. headquarters," said Governor Abbott. "In Texas, free enterprise flourishes thanks to our low taxes, reasonable regulations and right-to-work laws, and I look forward to Texas' continued growth as a North American hub for global trade and investment."

#### Public Safety

Governor Snyder Signs Bills To Better Protect Victims of Domestic Violence ([9 & 10 News](#)) – Victims of domestic violence in Michigan now have better protection thanks to legislation signed by Governor Rick Snyder. The governor says he hopes the updates will bring peace of mind. The protections allow people to defend themselves from abusive partners. Parents can now act to protect their children from abuse. Victims can also expect more protection from and in the courts.

#### Education

Gov. Deal signs education bills to increase opportunities for students, military members ([WRDW](#)) – On the last day to sign a bill into law, Governor Nathan Deal signed legislation that expands students' and service members' access to post-secondary education and jobs skills training. "Investing in education at every level - from our youngest minds to graduating high school seniors to returning service members and military veterans - has been, and remains, one of my top priorities," said Deal in a release. Deal says with the help of the General Assembly, the State has demonstrated commitment to students, teachers and education initiatives each year.

Bevin to Sign Guess' Bullying Bill Thursday ([The West Kentucky Star](#)) - Lone Oak Middle School student Morgan Guess and her mom Susan will join Governor Matt Bevin on Thursday, May 5, at the Capitol for a ceremonial signing of Senate Bill 228. The Governor officially signed the bill on April 9. The bill defines bullying in Kentucky and will impact all 1,233 public schools and some 670,000 students. The bill was sponsored by Paducah Senator Danny Carroll. Six legislators, who served on the Kentucky Youth Bully Prevention Task Force with the Guesses, will also join Sen. Carroll for the signing. "This day is a great day for all Kentucky kids and their families," said Morgan. "We now know someone does believe us, someone does hear us, and someone will help us. We are grateful to the legislature and to our Governor."

#### Healthcare

Funding could make South Dakota Medicaid expansion easier ([The Rapid City Journal](#)) - South Dakota's ability to expand Medicaid under Gov. Dennis Daugaard's conditions got a boost from federal policy changes that could help the state cover the costs of expansion, a top adviser to the governor said. Officials examining expansion hope to have a better idea next month whether a federal move to take on more Medicaid costs for Native American enrollees will allow South Dakota to cut spending enough to offset broadening eligibility for the public health coverage program. Daugaard has proposed expanding Medicaid as long as the state's share of the cost is covered by savings contingent on the federal policy changes. The number of services the federal government announced in February it will fully fund in certain situations through Medicaid for Native Americans came as a pleasant surprise for South Dakota officials looking to identify savings in state spending.

Texas, Feds Agree to Renew Short-Term Medicaid Funds ([The Texas Tribune](#)) - The Obama administration has agreed to temporarily keep some federal Medicaid money flowing into Texas to help hospitals treat uninsured patients, a relief to health care providers that feared losing the funds over state leaders' refusal to provide health insurance to low-income adults. State health officials said Monday they have struck a deal with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to keep the program going for another 15 months, with hospital reimbursements remaining at their current level. Those were the exact terms the Texas Health and Human Services Commission asked for last month. Agency leaders said the negotiations were a "big win for Texas."