

From: RGPPC <RGPPC@rgppc.org>
To: RGPPCRGPPC@rgppc.org
Date: 7/7/2016 8:44:09 AM
Subject: RGPPC Policy & Press



REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy & Press | July 7, 2016

Economic Development

Technology firms adding more high-wage jobs in Indianapolis ([Tribune Star](#))- Two technology companies, Brite Systems and Site Strategics, announced plans today to expand their operations here, together creating up to 77 new high-wage jobs over the next few years and continuing a trend of tech growth in Indiana. "Indiana has built one of the strongest environments in the nation for job creation, which is supporting today's exciting growth in the tech industry," said Governor Mike Pence. "Compared to other tech hubs around the country, Indiana provides an affordable, fiscally-predictable and limited-regulation business climate. Innovators, entrepreneurs and job creators like Brite Systems and Site Strategics continue to choose Indiana for growth, helping our state create more than 147,000 new Hoosier jobs in just the last three and half years."

Good Government

Gov. Matt Bevin seeking to remove outdated regulations ([The State Journal](#))- In an attempt to remove state regulations in the way of business growth, Gov. Matt Bevin asked state employees, cabinet officials and the public to report any outdated, duplicative or unnecessary state government regulations on his new website publicly launched Wednesday. Bevin quietly launched his "Red Tape Reduction Initiative" website Tuesday night at redtapereduction.com and sent out an email to state employees Wednesday morning asking them to report any of the 4,500 state regulations on Kentucky's books they deemed unnecessary, outdated or duplicative.

Baker seeks to restrict IDs to residents ([The Boston Globe](#))- Governor Charlie Baker said Wednesday he plans to file an amendment to the state budget that would require residents to show they are "lawfully present" in the country before getting driver's licenses. "As the Commonwealth works to comply with new standards set by the federal government for credential holders, it is imperative that we provide greater security and ensure that new licenses are only obtained by individuals with proper documentation, including proof of lawful presence," he said. The amendment would be direct about who would be granted a driver's license: "No license of any type may be issued to any person who does not have lawful presence in the United States."

Public Safety

(Alabama) Domestic Violence Agencies To See Additional Funding ([WKRG](#))- Enacted by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Robert Bentley in June 2015, the law establishing the fund involves the distribution of money raised through marriage license fees. License fees of \$60 are set aside for domestic violence programs in the state. "Domestic violence impacts many women and families across Alabama, but thanks to our state's domestic violence agencies that offer services to help end the cycle of abuse, a victim has resources that can help rebuild lives," Bentley said.

Gov. Scott requests President Obama to declare a federal emergency following algae blooms ([WPTV](#))- Gov. Rick Scott requested President Obama to declare a federal emergency following the algae blooms in local waterways surrounding the Indian River Lagoon and anticipated algae blooms surrounding the Caloosahatchee River. Scott said, "It is the federal government's sole responsibility to maintain the federally operated Herbert Hoover Dike, and for more than a decade, the federal government has ignored proper maintenance and repair to this structure."

(South Carolina) Prison officials crack down on live videos by prisoners ([WYFF](#))- "Periscoping prisoners" are popping up in prisons across the country and officials are looking for a way to cut the lines of communication. Last week, an inmate in the South Carolina Department of Corrections used a cell phone to live-stream from inside his prison cell with help from the mobile app Periscope. SCDC Director Bryan Sterling says it adds to the growing danger of prisoners getting their hands on contraband. And he commends Gov. Nikki Haley: "She was able to get a field hearing with the FCC and wrote a

letter to the FCC chairman asking for the authority to implement technology that would block prisoner's cell phones."

Transportation

(South Dakota) RCP&E Railway Expands To Serve More Farmers ([SDPB Radio](#))- South Dakotans should expect more rail traffic as the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad expands. Governor Dennis Daugaard is commemorating the completion of two main sidings on the railway this week. Bruce Lindholm is a program manager for the DOT. He says the railway has been a valuable resource to state transportation since the early 20th century. The rail line is currently operated by the company Genesee and Wyoming. Lindholm hopes that the two new sidings added to the current line promotes further railway expansion for South Dakota. He thinks the addition allows for greater carrying capacity and more frequent interchanges. He says it increases efficiency and reduced on-line delays. He sees cost-efficient benefits for both producers and customers who utilize railways compared to roads.

Healthcare

AZ would get \$21M to fight opioid abuse under White House plan ([Tucson Sentinel](#))- Arizona would get \$21 million over two years to combat opioid abuse as part of a \$1.1 billion proposal pushed Wednesday at the White House to tackle the spread of the epidemic. Police from around the country joined administration officials to call for immediate funding for opioid abuse treatment, as Congress haggled over the amount of funding that should be included to battle the epidemic, stalling opioid abuse treatment legislation in the process.

Lower Medicaid spending helped Ohio's budget amid revenue shortfall ([The Columbus Dispatch](#))- The vast majority of the state's under-spending in the general revenue fund — the portion of the budget that must be legally balanced each year — was in Medicaid, the state-federal health insurance program for the poor and disabled. It came in \$926 million below projections, \$428 million of which was state dollars. The rest was federal. Traditional Medicaid enrolled 58,377 fewer people than expected for the year, more than making up for the higher-than-expected enrollment in the Medicaid expansion, which includes those with annual incomes under 138 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$16,394. "That translated into significant savings for the state," said Greg Moody, director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation. "We feel good about it." With a year-end surplus, the state is expected to transfer as much as \$50 million into the already \$2 billion rainy day fund, which is kept in reserve to deal with a future budget shortfall or other issues identified by elected leaders.

Education

Indiana governor, lawmakers consider preschool expansion ([Indianapolis Business Journal](#))- Indiana's governor and legislative leaders have agreed to expand the state's foray into state-funded pre-kindergarten, but uncertainties about its effectiveness are causing some lawmakers to question the scope and cost of such an expansion. Indiana's pre-K pilot program cost about \$10 million to get started and served about 2,300 disadvantaged children in five counties during its first year, The Journal Gazette (of Fort Wayne) reported. The program's second year starts in August.

Kansas Supreme Court sets school finance argument for September ([Topeka Capital-Journal](#))- The Kansas Supreme Court on Wednesday scheduled oral argument for September on a pivotal portion of school-finance litigation challenging overall adequacy of state aid to public education. During a two-day special session in June, the Republican-led Kansas Legislature and Gov. Sam Brownback approved the shift of \$38 million to satisfy the Supreme Court's interpretation of the equitable allocation of funding to poorer and wealthier districts.

Governor Mead Continues Funding for Veteran Tuition Program ([KOWB](#))- Governor Matt Mead announced Wednesday that he will preserve funding through the fall semester for a state program that provides tuition assistance for veterans and their loved ones. The program, administered by the Wyoming Community College Commission, was slated to become a casualty of budget cuts by the beginning of the fall semester. Under the program, veterans are eligible for 10 free semesters at any Wyoming community college and the University of Wyoming, as are their spouses and dependents.