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Taxes and Budget

Governor Rauner Vetoes Appropriations Bill ([The Alton Daily News](#)) – Illinois needs real budget solutions, not empty promises. That's the reason Gov. Bruce Rauner gave for vetoing a nearly \$4 billion appropriations bill Friday. Rauner said Senate Bill 2046 appropriated nearly \$3.9 billion for social service providers and higher education, with more than \$3 billion coming out of the General Revenue Fund. Rauner said the state can't write checks from an overdrawn bank account. Senate President John Cullerton spokesman John Patterson said the veto is disappointing but underscores the need for immediate action on a balanced, bipartisan emergency budget for human service providers. That separate bill, Senate Bill 2038, would free up \$700 million from special funds. Asked about SB 2038 earlier this week, Rauner said it's time for a full budget. "It does not have essential services in it. It is incomplete and will still -- this is what I need you to understand -- it will still create a crisis," Rauner said.

Gov. Fallin Signs Next Fiscal Year's Budget Bill ([KGOU](#)) - Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed the budget bill that will fund state government for the next fiscal year on Friday. The bill closes a \$1.3 billion budget hole by eliminating the double deduction income tax credit and the refundable portion of the state earned income tax credit, tax credit reform such a reduction of the marginally producing oil and gas credit, and the use of one time money and bonding. Lawmakers were able to hold level funding for certain state services, such as corrections and healthcare, but many others took a 5 percent cut. Higher education's budget was reduced by nearly 16 percent as compared to what was originally appropriated last fiscal year. Common education's main fund was held level, though the budget cut into the Public School Activities Fund.

Energy and Environment

Michigan Governor Releases 30-year freshwater Rejuvenation Plan ([The NH Voice](#)) - Releasing a 30-year plan to get Michigan's freshwater protection back on track, Governor Rick Snyder Friday said the framework was aimed at achieving long-term success. Governor Snyder, who was accompanied by state environmental officials when he announced the plan to an audience on the shoreline of Lake St. Clair, said it's a love of the Great Lakes and the wonderful water resources in the state that binds Michiganders together, as much or more than anything. The plan has five key priorities: ensuring safe drinking water, reducing phosphorus in the western Lake Erie basin by 40%, investing in commercial and recreational harbors, preventing invasive species from harming local ecosystems, and developing a water trails system.

Gov. Ricketts Calls On EPA To Fulfill RFS Promise ([KTIC](#)) - Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts and ethanol advocates called on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to maintain the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and to scrap a proposal that would slash the nation's renewable volume obligation (RVO) for the second consecutive year. "A strong RFS means more jobs here at home, greater energy security, and a cleaner environment," said Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts. "The biofuels industry supports more than 852,000 American jobs and creates fuel we need to help our country become energy independent. It also stimulates investments in states like Nebraska, where we are on the forefront of research, development, and infrastructure for first- and second-generation biofuels."

Lawmakers turn focus to EPA spending ([The Hill](#)) – Lawmakers in both chambers of Congress will work in the coming week on contentious spending bills for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Interior Department. The full Appropriations Committee in the House is planning to vote on its bill and consider amendments Wednesday. The \$32.1 billion legislation was unveiled in May, and the subcommittee that wrote it approved it shortly after. The bill takes aim squarely at President Obama's environmental priorities. It would cut \$64 million from last year's levels and block funding for major regulations on power plant emissions, water pollution and coal mining.

Transportation and Infrastructure

(Massachusetts) Could outsourcing fix this T problem? ([The Boston Globe](#)) – When maintenance workers at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority request spare parts from the T's central warehouses in Everett and Charlestown, it generally takes more than three days for those parts to arrive — part of a "completely broken" system that officials want to

privatize, the MBTA's chief procurement officer said. T officials Monday plan to make the case for privatizing the sprawling warehouse department, which employs about 38 employees for approximately \$4.2 million annually. Officials say it could lead to major improvements to the T's maintenance operations and will represent one of the first efforts by Governor Charlie Baker's administration to test the suspension of the so-called Pacheco law, which puts up hurdles for outsourcing state jobs.

Education

(Oklahoma) With many exams now gone, uncertainty over schools' A-F grade system grows ([The Tulsa World](#)) – The elimination of end-of-course tests that Oklahoma public school students take each year will throw more uncertainty into the state's efforts to develop a new system of measuring school performance. The state's much-criticized report card system relies on students' scores from standardized end-of-instruction exams, which were eliminated when the governor signed into law House Bill 3218 last week. The law is intended to preserve time in the classroom for learning, reduce what many educators say is a culture of over-testing and potentially save the state millions of dollars. But the letter-grade system will now need revisions because it relies on those student test scores, including a year-to-year comparison to evaluate growth or academic improvement.

Healthcare

Op-Ed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard: SD makes it easy to save lives ([The Rapid City Journal](#)) - In 2013, I proposed and the Legislature passed a bill to establish a new online donor registry to make it easier for South Dakotans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors. Rather than waiting for their next trip to renew their driver's license, South Dakotans can go online, at any time, to become a donor. According to LifeSource, the new registry is having an impact. Since 2011, the percentage of South Dakotans age 18 and older who are registered has increased from 53 percent to 62 percent. That's a relatively high percentage compared to other states, but I think we can do better. Each day, 21 people die waiting for an organ transplant. Every 10 minutes a new name is added to the national waiting list.

Lawmakers heading to Zika talks ([The Hill](#)) - Pressure is building in the coming week for action on Zika funding, now that both chambers have voted to set up a conference committee to bridge the divide between House and Senate. Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), the Senate's No. 2 Republican, said that after the conference committee is set up, he thinks the process will move "pretty quickly." The House and Senate still have to figure out whether to offset the new spending, as House Republicans want. As lawmakers scramble to resolve their difference, public health officials are intensifying their warnings about the virus. The World Health Organization advised that women in countries with Zika transmission should consider putting off getting pregnant.