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## REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

### PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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#### Energy and Environment

Christie helps PSE&G promote new \$600M power plant at Sandy-battered facility ([NJ.com](http://NJ.com)) - Gov. Chris Christie and Senate President Steve Sweeney were on hand Tuesday morning for the ceremonial groundbreaking for the new power plant, now under construction, at PSE&G's Sewaren complex. Christie and Sweeney joined Woodbridge Mayor John McCormac and PSE&G Chairman and CEO Ralph Izzo in remembering how the facility, which houses four power plants, was severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy in October 2012. The facility is located adjacent to the Arthur Kill between Staten Island and New Jersey. The new power plant will replace the existing 65-year-old power plant and will be known as Sewaren 7, a dual-fuel, 540-megawatt plant that will run primarily on natural gas but can also run on ultra-low-sulfur distillate fuel oil as a backup fuel, according to information provided by the utility. Christie noted how much the state has improved since Sandy hit.

Momentum slows for major energy bill ([The Hill](http://TheHill)) – Lawmakers and energy reform advocates are pushing the Senate to quickly join a House energy bill conference committee amid concerns that progress is stalling. Despite House's vote to do so in May, the Senate has yet to appoint members to a committee that would write a compromise energy bill. The Senate energy bill approved in April is designed to streamline federal policy for the first time in a decade. The Senate legislation is a pared-down version of the House's energy bill, which includes red meat for conservatives that drove away Democratic support when it hit the floor last year. House members attached even more controversial provisions when they voted to go to a conference committee in April, such as a GOP package to relieve the California drought strongly opposed by Democrats and a measure to bypass environmental regulations for energy projects on Native American land, among others.

#### Economic Development

New Mexico uses incentives to attract sales jobs ([AP](http://AP)) – Gov. Susana Martinez is announcing the addition more than 200 sales positions in New Mexico by a California-based company that provides computer equipment, software and services. New Mexico officials say the state will contribute \$569,000 in incentives for infrastructure improvements and \$700,000 toward job-training to help El Segundo, California-based PCM expand into Rio Rancho.

(South Dakota) Local job development efforts get state government's support ([The Daily Republic](http://TheDailyRepublic)) - The South Dakota Board of Economic Development approved four grants for local development purposes Tuesday. The Faulkton Area Economic Development Corp. receives a \$384,000 grant from the local infrastructure improvement program; The Beadle and Spink Enterprise Community Inc. receives a \$250,000 grant for use in its revolving loan fund from the economic development partnership program; The South Eastern Development Foundation receives a \$250,000 grant for use in its revolving loan fund from the economic development partnership program; and the Sioux Falls Development Foundation receives a \$280,982 grant for staff funding from the economic development partnership program.

#### Public Safety

New law makes it easier to support Arizona foster children ([KPNX](http://KPNX)) - In what is considered the next step to improving the often tumultuous lives of Arizona's foster children, the state has published a list of 30 foster care charities that, for the first time, are eligible for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. The tax-credit, worth \$500 for individuals and \$1,000 for couples, was carved out by the legislature earlier this year and is separate from the so-called "working poor" tax credit. It's intended to funnel dollars to charities supporting foster expenses not covered by state funds. "Whether its dance lessons, tutoring help or getting set up in a new apartment arraignment, these charities help foster children in so many ways," said Rep. Kate Brophy McGee (R-Phoenix), a sponsor of the bill that was signed by Governor Doug Ducey earlier this year. The credit goes into effect during next year's tax filing season.

Ohio '911 Good Samaritan' law granting immunity for overdose calls signed by Gov. John Kasich ([Cleveland.com](http://Cleveland.com)) – A person who calls 911 to save a friend who is overdosing won't be arrested or punished for minor drug offenses under a new Ohio law. Ohio joined 37 states and the District of Columbia with so-called 911 Good Samaritan laws on Monday when

Gov. John Kasich signed House Bill 110 into law. But Ohio's law contains a few provisions critics say will actually discourage people from calling for help. The law grants immunity to callers and to the person overdosing on heroin, opioids or other drugs from arrest, charging, prosecution, conviction and penalization for a minor drug possession offense. The law takes effect in mid-September.

## Education

(Iowa) Fighting chronic absenteeism in schools ([KIMT](#)) - Chronic absenteeism in school, it's a problem that is big enough in Iowa that the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are getting involved in solving the problem. Monday Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds announced a new 30 person council to look into why kids are missing school. It centers on kids in kindergarten through third grade, and the group is looking to have an action plan by November. According to Reynolds, about 7 percent of all Iowa students were chronically absent, meaning they missed 10 percent or more of school days, in the 2014-15 school year.

Hogan: Baltimore's \$1.1B school construction plan 'is really going to work' ([The Baltimore Business Journal](#)) - It's the first of a massive \$1.1 billion school construction overhaul project that was inked in October 2013 as part of a memorandum of understanding between the city, state and Maryland Stadium Authority. Today, the construction stands as a symbol of that landmark deal. Located at 2701 E. Oliver St., the foundation of the new \$33 million Fort Worthington school is going in. Next fall, the work will be complete — and the state-of-the-art building will have wireless technology, outdoor learning areas, art and media rooms, a gymnasium, performance stage, flexible classrooms and a capacity for 787 students and staff, well over the current enrollment of 326. "We're excited about this program — it looks like it's working," said Gov. Larry Hogan, who toured the construction site Tuesday morning in a hard hat and bright yellow vest. He even installed a concrete block on the foundation base.

Recent Legislation Signed by Governor Snyder Requires Lessons on the History Genocide to be Included in School Curriculums ([MI News 26](#)) - Recent legislation signed by Governor Snyder now requires students to be taught about genocide in their social studies classes. The House Bill requires that all social studies curriculum for grades 8 through 12 include history about genocide. This includes, but is not limited to, the history of the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide. Snyder included a letter with the signing where he stressed that lawmakers need to be mindful of the delicate balance when they require certain subjects to be included in the statewide education system. The recommendations of local boards, teachers, and professional educators and parents need to be considered. The governor said the signing of this bill is not meant to give any indication that elected state officials are the best guiding voice on what material should be taught in the classroom.

Amid Opioid Epidemic, More Schools Offer 'Sober Dorms' ([Pew Stateline](#)) — Last year, Republican Gov. Chris Christie signed a law that requires all state colleges and universities in New Jersey to offer sober housing if at least a quarter of the students live on campus. The law gives schools four years to comply, but the College of New Jersey was already preparing to open a sober dorm, which it did last fall. Texas Tech opened its substance-free housing in 2011. Sober dorms are a "major new development in the recovery movement. They're unique because they get to the heart of the beast," said Dr. Robert DuPont, a psychiatrist who specializes in drug abuse. DuPont heads the Institute for Behavior and Health, a drug policy think tank based in Rockville, Maryland, and served as the second White House Drug Czar from 1973 to 1977.

## Healthcare

Gov. Robert Bentley Promotes Healthy Families ([DothanFirst.com](#)) - Governor Robert Bentley issued a proclamation declaring June 13-19 Alabama Men's Health Week, the week leading up to, and including, Father's Day. This special awareness period is part of Men's Health Month (June), a national effort to help educate men, boys, and their families on the value of regular preventive screenings and healthy lifestyles. "As we approach Father's Day, it is a good time for men to educate themselves on men's health issues and to seek preventative health care," said Governor Robert Bentley. "I proclaimed this Men's Health Week in Alabama to encourage all men to participate in health screenings and to increase awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, and medical check-ups."

Gov. Martinez encourages NM to "Pull Together" ([The Carlsbad Current-Argus](#)) - Gov. Susana Martinez and Secretary of Children, Youth and Families Department Monique Jacobson were in Carlsbad Tuesday morning promoting a new initiative to improve the quality of life for New Mexican children. Jacobson described the "Pull Together" initiative as an effort to promote resources available to families and also a way for others to help parents, families and children in need, including home visits. For now, Pull Together is essentially a website that serves as a database for those in need of services and for those who need help to connect to the programs that apply to them. "What we saw in communities was that our go-to is always, 'Add a service, add a service, add a service,'" Jacobson said in an interview after the presentation at the Pecos River Village Conference Center. "And we think there's a real need for those existing services to help coordinate and work better together."