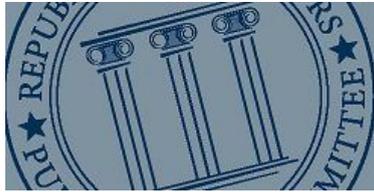


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## REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy & Press | July 20, 2016

### Recommended Reads

Governors Deal, Fallin and Bevin: How we are transforming our states' justice systems ([Fox News](#))- President Ronald Reagan once famously said, "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help." No one could have seen it at the time, but we now know that, with respect to our justice system, truer words were never spoken. In 1994, then-President Bill Clinton signed into law a "tough on crime" bill that contributed to the explosion of the federal prison population. What's worse, the legislation bestowed federal dollars to states that built more prisons and passed laws to put more people behind bars for longer sentences. The result? We now spend \$80 billion a year to incarcerate or jail more than 2.2 million people, many of whom, because of their prison sentence, cannot find jobs or housing when they leave prison. So they return to crime and return to prison. We keep throwing good, hard earned, tax payer money after bad, and public safety continues to be neglected.

In Cleveland, GOP Governors Up Commitments to Criminal Justice Reform ([The Daily Signal](#))- Despite strong voices from conservative members of the Senate, a trio of Republican governors reaffirmed the Republican Party's commitment to tackling criminal justice reform. On the second day of the Republican National Convention here, Govs. Matt Bevin of Kentucky, Nathan Deal of Georgia, and Mary Fallin of Oklahoma touted reforms passed in their states assisting nonviolent offenders, juveniles in the justice system, and incarcerated women. "The rule of law is the responsibility of government," Bevin told reporters after an event Tuesday morning. "I think if we focus that rule on where it is most needed so we are arresting the people that truly need to be arrested, and incarcerating the people who truly need to be incarcerated, separating from the rest of society those who are truly a danger to society, everything we're calling for will allow us to focus more like a laser on [the rule of law], and society would be safer."

### Economic Development

McCrory: CSX to open intermodal terminal in Edgecombe Co., bring 1,500 jobs to area ([WNCT](#))- Governor Pat McCrory has announced that CSX will open a new intermodal terminal in Edgecombe County. Dubbed the Carolina Connector (CCX), the governor says it's a critical infrastructure project that will bring jobs and economic opportunity to eastern North Carolina and position the state as a leader in enhanced freight movement. CCX will transfer containerized cargo between trains and trucks, processing 26,000+ containers per year initially. Initial jobs created just in building the facility is expected to be around 250 to 300; they'll be short-term jobs in engineering, technical services and construction. The hub is expected to create 1,500 jobs throughout North Carolina as a result of the terminal's operations; that's a conservative estimate.

### Budget/Tax

(Mississippi) State Leaders Promise Budget, Tax Reform ([Jackson Free Press](#))- State leaders made good on their promise to form working groups to study not only the state's tax structure but also investigate state-agency spending last week. On July 14, House Speaker Philip Gunn, Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves and Gov. Phil Bryant, all Republicans, announced plans at the state capitol to reform government spending and tax structure. Gunn said working groups will examine the state's tax code as well as state-agency expenditures to make sure they are staying within their means. The governor cited the Council of State Taxation and Forbes Magazine, which both praised cutting franchise taxes as a good idea. Forbes asked if it was the "best tax cut of the year" pointing out that "to the extent the franchise tax inhibits capital creation in the state, it's a bad idea."

Gov. Robert Bentley planning late summer or fall special session ([Alabama.com](#))- Gov. Robert Bentley told the Montgomery Advertiser today he is planning to call a special session in late summer or fall to deal with the General Fund. Bentley told the newspaper he would not include in his call for a special session his plan to build new state prisons, a key part of his agenda that failed during the regular legislative session. Bentley said he would bring the prison plan back in the 2017

regular session, according to the Advertiser. Bentley said he would announce the special session "in the near future." A key issue with the General Fund is funding for the Alabama Medicaid Agency. The Legislature appropriated \$700 million from the General Fund for Medicaid for the budget year that starts Oct. 1, which was \$85 million less than what the governor requested and what the agency said was needed to maintain services.

#### Transportation

Recent Florida Legislation Will Allow for Creation of Specialty Sinkhole Coverage Lines ([JD Supra Business Advisor](#))- The Florida Legislature passed legislation this session that allows specialty limited sinkhole coverage. According to the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation, Florida has more sinkholes than any other U.S. state. As such, the topic is particularly important in the Sunshine State. Under the legislation, which was passed as SB 1274, and signed by Governor Rick Scott on April 6, insurance carriers can now offer limited sinkhole damage policies that cover the cost of stabilizing buildings and repairing foundations, rather than the full cost of property replacement.

#### Public Safety

Illinois governor to sign Molly's law today ([WPSD Local 6](#))- Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner will stop by the Southern Illinois University Transportation Education Center in Murphysboro on Tuesday to sign Molly's law. The law is named for Molly Young, the SIU student found dead inside a Carbondale apartment in 2012. The law changes the statute of limitations to file a wrongful death lawsuit from two to five years.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott proposes law increasing penalties for crimes against cops ([The Dallas Morning News](#))- Following the police shootings in Dallas and Baton Rouge, Gov. Greg Abbott said Monday that he will ask lawmakers next year to enact a "Police Protection Act," aiming to increase penalties for crimes against officers. "At a time when law enforcement officers increasingly come under assault simply because of the job they hold, Texas must send a resolute message that the state will stand by the men and women who serve and protect our communities," Abbott said in a written statement. Abbott said his proposal would extend hate crime protections to police, increase penalties for crimes in which the victim was an officer, whether or not the violation is a hate crime, and create a campaign to educate Texans about the value law enforcement officers provide to communities.

#### Veterans Initiatives

Governor Larry Hogan Announces Permanent Vehicle Registration for Disabled Maryland Veterans ([AFRO](#))- Governor Larry Hogan today announced that the Maryland Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) will begin issuing permanent vehicle registration cards and license plate stickers to Maryland veterans who qualify as 100 percent disabled. While the stickers and registration cards have been free to qualified veterans for several years, this allows qualified veterans to skip the trip to the MVA to renew their registration. This initiative was developed by employees at the MVA and is part of Governor Hogan's initiative to improve customer service across Maryland state agencies.

#### Education

Kansas Governor Signs K-12 Funding Patch ([Education Week](#))- Gov. Sam Brownback, a Republican, has signed legislation to provide \$38 million more to Kansas' poor districts this coming school year after the state's supreme court threatened to cut off all school funding unless the legislature made school aid more equitable. The plaintiff's lawyers signed a letter to the court acknowledging that they were satisfied with the new formula.

#### Healthcare

Mass. wins delay on federal health insurance rules ([Boston Globe](#))- State and federal officials have negotiated a deal to delay a federal policy that threatened to destabilize health insurance rates at small businesses across Massachusetts. Governor Charlie Baker's administration said Tuesday that the agreement will postpone for one year a piece of the Affordable Care Act that requires a change in the way small businesses' insurance rates are calculated. Massachusetts will have to phase out its current rules and switch to the federal formula by 2019.