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Washington State's Innovative Alternative to Occupational Licensing

HB 1361 aims to replace Washington state's licensing structure with an online rating system similar to services like Yelp, Uber and Lyft. According to the bill's supporters, the professions targeted for de-licensing involve little to no public health concerns and switching to a public feedback platform for information rather than a required license makes sense.

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Healthy Rainy-Day Fund Keeps Fiscal Storms at Bay

Under Gov. Matt Mead, Wyoming has maintained one of the largest rainy-day funds in the nation despite financial volatility caused by fluctuating gas prices. He has also focused on diversifying Wyoming's economy by expanding business opportunities in the technology, renewable energy and manufacturing sectors. Mead said opening up the state to new industries and disciplined budgeting have kept Wyoming stable through the economy's ups and downs.

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AT&T to Build Broadband Network Dedicated to First Responders

First Responder Network Authority, or FirstNet, an independent authority within the Department of Commerce, has entered into a 25-year, \$46.5 billion agreement with AT&T to build and maintain the first nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to America's first responders. FirstNet's mission is to help public safety personnel to connect with other agencies and jurisdictions as an emergency unfolds.

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Workforce Development: How States are Innovating with WIOA

This FREE CSG eCademy webinar on Tuesday, May 9 at 2 p.m. EDT will provide an overview of workforce development initiatives in the states, including a summary of state plans for implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, or WIOA. Experts will provide state examples of both the consolidated and unified plans, highlight the processes used to choose the plans, and discuss intrastate regional coordination.

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2016 State Legislative Salaries

When it comes to comparing state legislative salaries, there are lots of caveats. In 2016, seven states paid legislators a per diem salary rather than an annual salary. Thirty-eight states paid their legislators an annual salary, with a huge range. Five states paid legislators unusual or session-based compensation. This infographic provides a 50-state look at legislative salaries in 2016.

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Snapshot of Cybercharter School Regulations

Charter schools are publicly funded schools that are operated by nongovernmental boards or organizations, which can be nonprofit or for-profit, and have a short-term contract with the state or a state-designated authorizer. Currently, 44 states have authorized charter schools. Of those that have charter schools, 24 states have explicitly defined or permitted cybercharter schools. Cybercharter schools provide either all or the majority of their instruction online.

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Proposed Changes to Federal Tax Deductions Could Impact Several States

President Donald Trump has proposed several options for tax reform, including significant changes to personal income taxes. According to a recent analysis by the Pew Charitable Trusts, these changes could also have significant impacts on states that link their tax codes to the federal code. Twelve states use the federal rates to set their own standard deductions, while eight states link to federal personal exemption provisions in addition to standard deduction provisions.

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Henry Toll Fellowship Application Deadline Extended

The deadline to apply for the CSG Henry Toll Fellows Class of 2017 has been extended to midnight PDT on May 7. The 2017 CSG Toll Fellowship will host 48 emerging state leaders from across the country Aug. 25-30 in Lexington, Kentucky, for an intensive leadership development program designed to stimulate personal assessment and growth, while providing priceless networking and relationship-building opportunities. Visit the CSG website for more information or to apply.

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Workforce Development: How States are Innovating with WIOA

Tuesday, May 9, 2 p.m. EDT
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Innovations in the Automobile Industry and Their Implications for Insurance

Tuesday, May 23, 2 p.m. EDT
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Tuesday, June 6, 2 p.m. EDT
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Autonomous and Connected Vehicles: What's Next for the Industry & State Policymakers Policy Academy

June 12-14
Detroit, Michigan

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Medicaid 101 Policy Academy

June 28-30
Washington, D.C.

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