

From: RGPPC <RGPPC@rgppc.org>
To: RGPPCRGPPC@rgppc.org
Date: 5/26/2016 8:53:37 AM
Subject: RGPPC Policy & Press



REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy & Press | May 26, 2016

Taxes and Budget

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey Signs Tax Bill Affecting Business Incentives ([PR Newswire](#)) – Arizona Governor Doug Ducey has signed into law legislation to improve one of Arizona's main tax incentives administered by the Arizona Commerce Authority. House Bill 2666, sponsored by Representative Karen Fann, includes amendments and reorganizations that affect Arizona's business incentives. The legislation establishes the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, which will conduct research and analysis of Arizona's tax and regulatory environment in contrast with competing states.

Energy and Environment

Governor Snyder Declares Energy Emergency ([WSJM](#)) – To ensure an adequate supply of gasoline for the upcoming holiday weekend, Governor Rick Snyder is declaring an energy emergency due to the shutdown of a fuel-pipeline in Wisconsin and an unplanned outage of the Marathon refinery in Detroit. To ease the minds of consumers, Anna Heaton, with the governor's office, says this isn't about a shortness of supply. "By changing the rules that govern truck drivers and how long they can be on the road per day," says Heaton, "this will allow them to get through the terminals, get checked out and get that gas where it needs to be so people can get to the pump and get it." Prices at the pump have jumped sharply in the past several days. GasBuddy.com senior petroleum analyst Patrick DeHaan doesn't think it's going to impact prices. "This is a regional supply crunch, not just a Michigan supply crunch," says DeHaan.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Michigan moves to lead driverless car testing ([The Detroit News](#)) - Sweeping legislation was introduced Wednesday in the state Senate that aims to make Michigan the nation's leader in autonomous vehicle testing by allowing manufacturers to produce and sell self-driving cars here and clearing the way for their use on state roadways. Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake Township, introduced "broad" legislation that would allow self-driving cars to be operated on any of Michigan's 122,000 miles of roads in the state and would eliminate the need for a driver to be behind the wheel while it's operating. It also would allow for on-demand autonomous vehicle networks operated by manufacturers — such as a fleet of self-driving Chevrolet Bolt EVs that General Motors Co. is developing with ride-hailing company Lyft Inc. — to pick up passengers.

(South Carolina) House approves billions of dollars for roads, reform ([The Post and Courier](#)) – The House gave key approval Tuesday to the state's best shot at improving roads this year in a bill that sends reforms and billions of dollars to fix crumbling highways to the state Department of Transportation. Unlike various funding proposals that came before it, the latest bill does not raise taxes or fees. Instead, it provides a mechanism to direct \$215 million in revenue, fines and taxes collected from two state transportation agencies for use in borrowing billions over a decade. The money would go to SCDOT-approved priorities. The move will free up additional money from SCDOT that, in total, would allocate \$2 billion to widen and improve interstates, \$1.4 billion for pavement resurfacing and \$950 million to eliminate structurally-deficient bridges. The S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank would finance the projects.

Economic Development

Indiana Economy Sets New Employment Record in April ([AP](#)) – Governor Mike Pence, Friday, issued the following statement regarding the April employment report, issued by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, that reports that Indiana's economy added 12,000 jobs in April, bringing the total jobs added to the state's economy to more than 150,000 since the Governor took office. More Hoosiers were working in April of 2016 than ever before. The previous peak was February 2016. "The April employment report is a testament to the strength of the Hoosier workforce and our pro-growth economic policies," said Governor Pence. "With more people working than ever before in our state's history and recently being named the best place in the Midwest to do business, Indiana's economy is on a roll."

(Nevada) Workforce development to be focus of 2017 legislative session ([The Nevada Appeal](#)) - Workforce development is expected to take center stage during the 2017 legislative session. According to Dale Erquiaga, Gov. Brian

Sandoval's chief strategy officer, in his final session the governor will focus on improving the way the state helps prepare workers for Nevada's diversifying economy. "We talk a lot about a skills gap. Today we think about a third of Nevadans have some level of college. Within five years, 60 percent to 65 percent will require a post-secondary education. That's a 30 to 35 percent gap," Erquiaga told attendees at Northern Nevada Development Authority's monthly breakfast at the Carson Nugget Wednesday. Erquiaga said he expect to see proposals for both K-12 and higher education, both public and private, and for the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.

Appeals Court Grants Stay in State's Right-to-Work Lawsuit ([CBS 58](#)) - The Wisconsin Court of Appeals, Dist. III has granted a stay in the State's right-to-work lawsuit, putting on hold a lower court's ruling that struck down the law. The ruling came down late Tuesday evening. In response to the Court's decision, the Wisconsin Department of Justice issued a statement expressing confidence that the law will ultimately be found to be constitutional. "The Wisconsin Court of Appeals, Dist. III has granted a stay in the right-to-work case, giving our citizens more certainty as the law works its way through the courts. We feel confident the law will ultimately be found constitutional, as it has been in more than half the States across the country." In a Tweet posted following the announcement Governor Scott Walker declared "Freedom to work is back," [in Wisconsin].

Public Safety

Bentley considering special session to pass prison bill ([WIAT](#)) – Governor Robert Bentley says he has not ruled out calling a special session to pass his prison construction bill. Bentley's proposal to borrow 800 million dollars to build four new state prisons failed on the last night of the regular session. CBS42 caught up with the governor today during a park dedication ceremony in Wilsonville. He says if a special session is called passing the prison plan will be his top priority. "We need to pass that prison bill. We came within I would say 45 of getting it passed and we believe we have the votes there to do it. So if we called a special session that would be the first thing that we deal with," the governor said.

Education

Branstad signs new college savings bill ([The Courier](#)) – Nonprofit organizations that qualify for tax-exempt status are now allowed to open and fund college savings accounts for individual beneficiaries under a bill Gov. Terry Branstad signed into law Wednesday. Senate File 2301, which took effect upon Branstad's signature, adds tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations to the definition of "participant" for the Iowa Educational Savings Plan Trust, which also is known as the Iowa College Savings 529 Plan. The Iowa College Savings 529 Plan – administered by the state treasurer's office -- is Iowa's version of a federally approved, tax-advantaged college savings and finance program that allows assets to grow tax free and be withdrawn tax free as long as the withdrawals are used for approved higher education expenses.

Genocide education requirement on way to Michigan governor ([AP](#)) - A bill to require older schoolchildren to learn about the Holocaust and the 1915 massacre of Armenians has been sent to Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder. The state House gave final approval on the bill Wednesday. It would require lessons on the Holocaust and the Armenian massacre. Historians estimate that as many as 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks in an event widely viewed by historians as genocide, a term the legislation also uses. But Turkey, a key U.S. partner and NATO ally, denies the deaths constituted genocide and has said the death toll has been inflated. An estimated 6 million Jews died in the Holocaust during World War II.

(Oklahoma) Bill reducing student testing heads to governor ([The Edmond Sun](#)) - House Bill 3218, which will repeal end-of-instruction tests required for high school graduation, is on its way to Gov. Fallin's office. "This testing reform bill will repeal our current end-of-instruction tests and replace them with high-value assessment tools for high school students. In addition, it limits standardized testing in grades 3-12 to only those federally required, plus U.S. History in high school," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Hofmeister in a letter last week. The State Chamber of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Educated Workforce Initiative (OEWI) were a part of a coalition of stakeholders working on testing legislation over the last two years. House Bill 3218, the culmination of two years of work, will ensure Oklahoma's tests are able to be used to remediate early, give a predictive measure of academic success, gauge college and career readiness, and help inform instruction in the classroom.