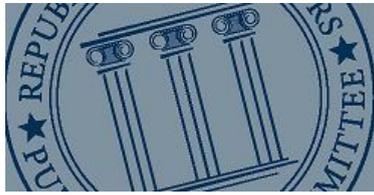


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REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy & Press | July 21, 2016

Economic Development

(Florida) Medical device company to expand in Collier County ([Fox 4](#))- County leaders and Governor Rick Scott announcing Tuesday that Arthrex, a local company that makes medical devices, is expanding its operations in North Naples. The \$63 million deal, which will create an estimated 560 jobs, is part of an agreement between the company, the state and the county.

McCrory announces new local jobs ([WCNC](#))- Governor Pat McCrory visited Catawba County to celebrate the launch of new jobs. Carolina Nonwovens will employ 65 to 70 people at its new manufacturing facility in Maiden. "Manufacturing is the heart of North Carolina," Gov. McCrory said. He discussed how three years ago, unemployment in the county was at more than 11-percent, but it has since dropped to 4.5-percent.

(Tennessee) Four Chattanooga communities to receive Tourism Enhancement Grants ([WRCBTV](#))- Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam and Commissioner Randy Boyd announced Wednesday that 29 communities (4 in the Chattanooga area) will receive over \$999,000 in Tourism Enhancement Grants to assist communities with tourism infrastructure assets. "These grants showcase how great the partnership is between tourist development and economic development. With the support of these grants, each community will be better equipped to succeed in our state and I look forward to seeing these Tennessee communities thrive," said Governor Haslam.

Transportation

Baker says state should run MBTA pension fund, seeks savings at T ([Boston Globe](#))- Governor Charlie Baker said the MBTA pension fund, plagued by a widening gap between its assets and obligations, should be managed by the larger state retirement system. In a wide-ranging speech Wednesday, marking one year since a fiscal control board took over the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Baker said the \$1.5 billion fund was in a "free fall" that could threaten its ability to pay retirement benefits for 11,700 current and former transit workers.

Public Safety

AL leaders to law enforcement officers: 'We've got your back' ([WBRC](#))- Alabama Governor Robert Bentley and Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Secretary Stan Stabler visited the Montgomery Police Department Wednesday morning to thank police officers across the state for their service and dedication. The meeting with Governor Bentley, ALEA Sec. Stabler, and Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange sent a message to officers after a wave of police shootings that, "We have your back". This is a continued effort by officials to show appreciation to law enforcement officers.

Healthcare

(Florida) State fights to inspect abortion records ([Naples Daily News](#))- State officials say a new law requiring regulators to inspect at least half of all patient medical records at abortion clinics is not invasive and yet they acknowledge other medical centers are not subject to the same level of scrutiny, according to court documents. The state and the women's health group were battling before the new law's adoption. Last summer, Gov. Rick Scott ordered inspections of abortion clinics around the state, including those in Naples and Fort Myers, after an undercover video debate on a national level where an anti-abortion group said they caught Planned Parenthood officials talking on tape about selling aborted fetuses.

Illinois Governor expands coverage for breast cancer screenings ([KFVS](#))- Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner signed a bill on Wednesday requiring insurance plans in Illinois to expand coverage for 3D breast cancer screenings. Healthcare insurance plans will now cover breast tomosynthesis or 3D mammography, a newer and more effective screening tool than the low-dose mammography. The Illinois Department of Public Health reports breast cancer as the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women living in the state.

Lawmaker Panel Meets To Find Health Coverage Alternative For Low-Income Idahoans ([Boise State Public Radio](#))- In February, hundreds of people went to the statehouse to show their support for an expansion of Medicaid. About 30 people gave public testimony, sometimes tearfully asking lawmakers to grant health coverage to 78,000 low-income Idahoans. At the time the legislature did not pass a bill to expand the federal program, nor did lawmakers approve an alternative pushed by Governor Butch Otter. Now, an interim legislative work group is picking up where lawmakers left off.

Obama calls Florida governor on Zika virus ([WLTZ](#))- President Obama is offering federal support to Florida as it investigates a possible Zika virus outbreak. Obama made the offer in a phone call Wednesday to Florida Governor Rick Scott. State health officials are in Miami-Dade County, checking out what could be the first locally-transmitted case of the Zika virus.

Gov. Bruce Rauner signs 2 anti-opioid laws into Illinois law ([Daily Herald](#))- A new Illinois law will let drug court participants use medication to combat opioid addiction. Gov. Bruce Rauner signed the measure late last week. It goes into effect Jan. 1. Under the new law, judges are prevented from barring drug court participants from using medications that doctors prescribe to treat opioid addictions. The Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy says some drug courts have required participants to not use medications to complete the program.

Education

(New Jersey) New school funding plan could mean property tax relief for Sussex County ([The Advertiser News](#))- Governor Chris Christie's new school funding plan for the state of New Jersey could mean significant property tax cuts for Sussex County residents, if the plan passes. The governor's "Fairness Formula," introduced on June 21, would give every school district the exact same amount of state aid per student — \$6,599 per pupil for each district. According to Christie, the proposed plan would significantly reduce aid to urban districts while lowering property taxes in many suburban towns. "It is time to change the failed school funding formulas and replace them with one that will force the end of these two crises: the property tax scandal and the disgrace of failed urban education," Christie said in his speech introducing the plan.