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## REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

### PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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#### Taxes and Budget

Governor Scott announces \$1.8 million in defense grants ([WMBB](#)) – Governor Rick Scott announced Wednesday that \$1.8 million was awarded through the Florida Defense Support Task Force Grant Program to support seven defense projects across 13 counties. According to a news release from Gov. Scott's Office, "this funding will strengthen Florida's military bases ahead of any potential Department of Defense realignment or closure actions, thereby protecting the more than 774,000 jobs and more than \$79.8 billion in economic impact the defense industry supports in Florida." Governor Scott said, "I am proud to announce \$1.8 million in Florida Defense Support Task Force Grants for Florida's military installations and defense communities." This grant program is administered by Enterprise Florida, Inc. and are awarded annually.

Rauner, Lawmakers Reach Tentative Stopgap Funding Deal ([NBC Chicago](#)) - Lawmakers returned to Springfield Wednesday for a special legislative session as Gov. Bruce Rauner and party leaders reportedly reached a tentative deal on stopgap funding measures just days before Illinois' budget impasse is set to hit the one year mark. Rauner met with House Speaker Mike Madigan, Senate President John Cullerton, House Minority Leader Jim Durkin and Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno at length on Tuesday evening and throughout the day Wednesday, giving many a glimmer of hope that a compromise is close. A tentative deal was reportedly reached Wednesday and lawmakers could vote on the measure as early as Thursday morning when the General Assembly reconvenes for another special legislative session. The plan includes \$250 million in added spending for school districts with low-income students, sources told NBC 5. Roughly \$100 million of that would go to Chicago Public Schools.

#### Energy and Environment

Fla. governor declares emergency due to algae bloom ([KHOU](#)) - Gov. Rick Scott declared a state of emergency in Martin and St. Lucie Counties Wednesday in response to algae blooms in local waterways. Scott's executive order will allow state and local governmental agencies "to take swift action to mitigate the spread of algal blooms in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries by redirecting the flow of water in and out of Lake Okeechobee," according to a news release from the governor's office. Scott is also directing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to take specific actions to address the issues caused by blooms, including increased testing for toxins and more water storage projects.

(Iowa) June is Invasive Species Awareness Month ([The Forrest City Summit](#)) – In an effort to increase awareness of invasive species and the impact they have on Iowa's ecosystems and economy, Governor Branstad recently proclaimed June as Invasive Species Awareness Month in Iowa. Each year, Iowa spends millions of dollars on the control of invasive plants, insects, animal species and diseases in woodlands, wetlands, waterbodies and urban areas around the state. "The discovery and spread of emerald ash borer in Iowa has brought to light the devastating effect an invasive species can have," said Chuck Gipp, DNR Director, in a news release. Invasive Species Awareness Month provides an opportunity for the public and private sectors to join forces and take action against the introduction and spread of invasive species in the Iowa.

#### Transportation and Infrastructure

Autonomous vehicle guidelines will provide direction, not regulation ([The Hill](#)) – The head of the Department of Transportation (DOT) said forthcoming guidelines on autonomous vehicles are meant to provide direction to states as they implement their own regulations on the emerging technology. The agency is expected to unveil guidance on self-driving cars sometime this summer, in an effort to offer states a clearer picture about how the federal government intends to approach the issue — but the guidelines won't go through the formal rulemaking process. "We are crafting a Declaration of Independence in a way, not crafting a Constitution," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx told reporters at a pen-and-pad briefing on Wednesday. "At this point, what we're trying to do is lay a frame that the structure can be built on as time goes forward." A number of states have already begun to draft their own regulations on self-driving cars, sparking concern about a patchwork of policies that may emerge if a cohesive federal framework is not established.

## Economic Development

(Arkansas) Sprint officially opens regional headquarters in Little Rock ([Business Wire](#)) – Sprint officially opened its South Central Region headquarters today, after formally announcing its job expansion in Arkansas at a press event in April with Governor Asa Hutchinson, Mayor Mark Stodola, and the Little Rock Regional Chamber. The newly-renovated 5,000 square-foot headquarters at 900 South Shackleford Road will house the regional offices for consumer and business sales, marketing, and finance space for Sprint. "Sprint is investing in Little Rock and the state of Arkansas with the official opening of our regional headquarters and being here is the best way we can deliver services to our customers and support the local community," said Jonathan Blitz, Sprint's president for the South Central region. "We're excited to grow both our employee and customer base here in Little Rock, across the state and throughout the South Central Region."

Kasich signs revised Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit, cap now \$40M ([WKYC](#)) - The Greater Cleveland Film Commission confirmed that Ohio Governor John Kasich has signed into law a revised Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit, passed last month by the Ohio General Assembly. This raises the annual incentive cap to \$40 million, removes the \$5 million per project cap, and changes the incentive rate to a flat 30 percent on all production dollars spent in Ohio, according to the GCFC news release. "The changes to Ohio's incentive will help us bring thousands more jobs, and hundreds of millions of dollars to the state, and is one more step toward making us more competitive with other states that are leaders in media production like Georgia and Louisiana," said GCFC President Ivan Schwarz.

## Public Safety

(Massachusetts) Bill would let passers-by break car windows to free hot pets ([AP](#)) - Passers-by who spot an animal locked in a hot car would be allowed to smash the car's window to rescue the pet under a bill approved unanimously by the Massachusetts Senate. The passer-by would first have to see if the door is locked, make a quick effort to find a police officer and call 911 to let them know he or she is planning to rescue the animal. But he or she would be able to smash a window to free the animal as a last resort. Passers-by would have to stay with the animal until police or another first responder arrived at the scene. The bill would also give animal control officers, police and firefighters the same ability of entering a hot car to save an animal after making "reasonable efforts" to find the car's owner.

(North Carolina) Ban keeping sex offenders from places for kids is making its way to the governor ([AP](#)) – The General Assembly has passed a bill prohibiting some sex offenders from being near children while a similar North Carolina law from 2009 remains under federal review. The House approved a bill Tuesday to ban sex offenders who have been identified as threats to children from places like arcades, parks, swimming pools, libraries and the State Fairgrounds during the fair. If approved, the law would take effect in September. The 2009 law banning sex offenders from places where children gather was ruled unconstitutionally broad by a federal court in April. The state has appealed the ruling. The proposal's sponsors say the state would maintain the 2009 law if the appeal is successful. The bill heads to Gov. Pat McCrory, who has 10 days to act before it becomes law.

## Education

Governor Bentley Holds Ceremonial Bill Signing for Jason Flatt Act ([WTVY](#)) - Governor Robert Bentley on Tuesday joined legislators and stake holders for a ceremonial bill signing at the State Capitol in Montgomery. During the ceremony, the Governor signed the Jason Flatt Act which became law on May 10 of this year. The Jason Flatt Act requires mandatory annual training for K-12 educators on suicide awareness and prevention. The Jason Flatt Act had widespread support including backing by University of Alabama Head Football Coach Nick Saban. Alabama was one of three states to pass the Jason Flatt Act in 2016. To date, 19 states have passed a version of this act. "I am proud to sign this bill which will give teachers the ability to identify students who may be at risk of suicidal or self-harming behavior," Governor Bentley said. "It is so important that we deal with this issue head on and not ostracize individuals who may be experiencing problems either at home or at school. This is a mental health issue that unfortunately has been a problem across the nation, but we are doing everything we can to combat this problem in Alabama."

Kansas Supreme Court Accepts School Funding Changes ([KRSL](#)) – The Kansas Supreme Court has signed off on a new education funding law that boosts state aid to poor school districts. The justices issued a brief order Tuesday saying that the Legislature "has currently satisfied" the court's previous orders on education funding by approving the measure last week. The decision ends a threat that the state's public schools would be shut down after Thursday. The court issued its three-page order a day after Republican Governor Sam Brownback signed the school finance measure into law. Lawyers for the state and attorneys for four school districts suing the state submitted a joint statement saying that the measure complied with the court's dictates.

## Healthcare

Zika vaccine trials could halt without new funds, official says ([The Hill](#)) - A top U.S. health official says that advanced trials of a Zika vaccine would be hindered or even stopped completely if Congress does not approve more funding. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the head of infectious disease research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), said he hopes to start a phase II trial of a Zika vaccine in early 2017, but that the effort requires more money. "The vaccine effort will be blunted, if not completely aborted, if we don't have the money to go into the advanced trials," Fauci said Wednesday on a call with

reporters. He said that so far, the NIH has been able to go forward with vaccine research by shifting money from other areas. He hopes to start phase I trials in late August or early September.