

Capitol Journal

News & Views from the 50 States

Hollywood Hustle



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June 16, 2014

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The next issue of Capitol Journal will be available on June 23rd.

Top Story

Generous tax incentives in many states have lured a huge chunk of Hollywood productions out of California. And those incentives are spurring battles not only between states but within them.

SNCJ Spotlight

Battle royal over Hollywood tax breaks in states

The bulk of the filming for the 2011 Hollywood blockbuster "Battle: Los Angeles" wasn't actually done in Los Angeles. It took place in Baton Rouge and Shreveport, Louisiana. And only six days of shooting for the upcoming "San Andreas," about a helicopter pilot who rescues his daughter in San Francisco following a major earthquake, will take place in that city. The rest of the \$100 million production will be filmed in Australia.



By Korey Clark



Those are just two examples of the ongoing flight of Hollywood from California to other states and other countries. That exodus, which has been given the name “runaway production,” is being driven by tax breaks. And those incentives are spurring battles not only between states but within them.

There is no denying Hollywood’s exodus from its home state. In 1996, 20 of the 50 top-grossing movies were filmed in California. Last year, only four were shot there. And movie production has plummeted 60 percent in L.A. over the past 15 years.

“The tourists still come but what they’re looking at is the past. It’s an illusion,” said Michele Burke, an Academy Award-winning makeup artist. “The big films are not being made here. Everything has changed.”

L.A. hasn’t fared much better with television production. In 2005, 80 percent of TV dramas were shot in L.A. County. By 2010, the rate had dropped to 50 percent. And only two of last fall’s 23 new dramas were shot there.

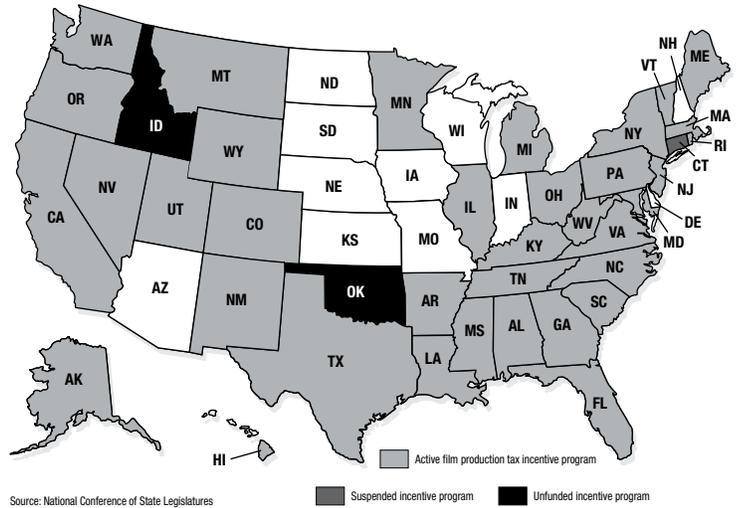
L.A.’s mayor, Eric Garcetti, has called the trend a “civic emergency.”

“Entertainment is L.A.’s signature industry, and we can’t afford to lose it,” he told the *Observer*. “It’s about more than just Hollywood actors and stars — it’s an industry of over 500,000 good-paying, middle-class jobs like electricians, carpenters and caterers, and I’m committed to doing everything I can to keep filming here in L.A.”

California’s loss has been other states’ gain. The Milken Institute published a report in February indicating the state has lost more than 16,000 production jobs since 2004, while states with more lucrative incentives, including Louisiana, North Carolina and Texas, have together gained that many production jobs and more. Last year, more studio feature films were shot in Louisiana than in California for the first time — 18 versus 15 — according to the private, nonprofit FilmL.A., which monitors film permitting. Louisiana offers a tax credit of 30 percent on qualified direct production expenditures, while California’s credit is either 20 or 25 percent, depending on the type of production.

On the small-screen front, New York reportedly lured NBC’s “Tonight Show” from Burbank to Manhattan with a tax credit amounting to \$20 million per year. And

Bird’s eye view



Most states offer film production tax incentives

Thirty-nine states have tax incentive programs for film, television and other media productions, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. However, Connecticut imposed a two-year moratorium on providing incentives for feature films in July 2013. And the programs in Idaho and Oklahoma have no funding.



CBS' selection in April of Stephen Colbert to replace David Letterman as the host of the "Late Show," sparked a feud between L.A. Mayor Garcetti, who wanted the show to move to his city, and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D), who wanted it to remain in New York City.

But the battles over production tax incentives aren't just being waged between cities and states. Within various state legislatures across the country, lawmakers are wrestling with the efficacy of such incentives and how big they should be.

The Motion Picture Association of America maintains the more than \$1 billion in film and TV production tax incentives states offer helps support an industry that provided 1.9 million private-sector jobs and \$43.1 billion in wages in 2011.

"Tax incentives are creating jobs and promoting economic activity," said Vans Stevenson, the MPAA's senior vice president of state government affairs. "You see so many success stories because there is a significant return on investment, and that is true across the country."

But critics of the incentives, like the nonprofit Tax Foundation, contend that although supporters try to justify them with "fanciful estimates of economic activity," they generally just shift production from one place to another without actually producing a net increase in either economic activity or jobs.

"They're learning that the incentives don't live up to the claims of their proponents," said Tax Foundation economist Scott Drenkard. "The main reason they are popular is they're a little bit sexy. They give politicians the ability to rub elbows with movie stars."

Some state lawmakers, however, don't seem to find the incentives particularly alluring. For instance, before adjourning in April, Maryland's House and Senate split over, and ultimately failed to pass, a \$3.5 million tax credit sought by the production company behind the Netflix series "House of Cards."

In California, a coalition of studios and entertainment unions is pushing for expansion of the state's production tax incentive program to make it more competitive with the 38 other states that offer such programs (see Bird's eye view). The bill — AB 1839 — was passed by the state's Assembly in May, according to LexisNexis State Net's legislative database. But the recent indictment of California Sen. Ron Calderon (D) for allegedly taking a bribe from an undercover F.B.I. agent posing as a Hollywood producer to support film incentive legislation hasn't helped the measure's chances in the Senate.

"It certainly casts a dark cloud over the whole subject," said California Sen. Lois Wolk (D). "We should not be considering a renewal or expansion of the very same legislation that was and may still be at the center of an ongoing F.B.I. investigation into corruption in the Legislature."

But film producers haven't given up on the state. The California Film Commission said this month that it received nearly 500 applications for the state's film and TV tax subsidies program, over 100 more than last year.



“This year’s dramatic growth in the number of applications reaffirms that California is the preferred choice for projects of all types and sizes,” said the commission’s executive director, Amy Lemisch. “The industry wants to base productions in California, but incentives now drive those decisions.”

The California program’s \$100 million annual allocation was only enough to fund 23 projects, which were selected by a lottery system, as the program requires. AB 1839 would significantly expand the program, making even major studio productions with budgets of up to \$100 million eligible. And although the California Senate may not currently be inclined to pass that measure, its supporters appear ready for a fight worthy of a Hollywood production.

At a labor rally earlier this year, Steve Dayan, secretary-treasurer of Local 399 of the Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters, said his union was willing to repeat its action of 15 years ago: encircling the state’s Capitol with 200 trucks to press for incentives.

“We are not going to let other states poach our jobs,” he said.

At the same rally, Maria Elena Durazo, secretary-treasurer of the L.A. County Federation of Labor, vowed her union would not let the entertainment capital of the world go the way of America’s automaking capital.

“We are going to stand with you to make sure Hollywood does not become Detroit,” she said. “I’ll be damned if we’re going to stand by and see the last film industry worker here turn out the lights. Hell, no!” (NEW YORK TIMES, VARIETY, OBSERVER [LONDON], LOS ANGELES TIMES, STATE [COLUMBIA], MILKEN INSTITUTE, STATE NET)

— *Compiled by KOREY CLARK*

Budget & taxes

STATES HOPING TO SELL ‘OPEN DATA’: Last month, a couple of web designers were awarded a \$25,000 prize by the state of Colorado for developing an online tool to help businesses determine the best place to set up shop. The tool, dubbed “Beagle Score,” is able to rate locations on the basis of taxes and incentives, zoning requirements and even the location of potential competitors, drawing on about 30 data sets posted online by the state and its municipalities.

Beagle Score is an example of how states and other jurisdictions are encouraging entrepreneurs to turn raw government data posted on “open data” websites into products the public will buy.

“The [Colorado contest] opened up a reason to use the data,” said Sean Wittmeyer, one of Beagle Score’s developers. “It shows how ‘open data’ can solve a lot of challenges.... And absolutely, we can make it commercially viable. We can expand it to other states, and fairly quickly.”

At least 39 states and 46 cities and counties have established open-data sites since the states of Utah and California, and the cities of San Francisco and Washington, D.C., first did so in 2009, and new sites are cropping up almost daily, according to the federal site, Data.gov. State and local governments are also sponsoring “hackathons,” “data paloozas,” and challenges like Colorado’s to solicit ideas for how to present their data more effectively as well as mine it.

Open-data advocates estimate there’s a multibillion-dollar industry in the conversion of raw government data into products for consumers and industries that could range from a simple mobile phone app identifying every stop sign a motorist will encounter on a trip from one town to another, to a complex tool that generates farm insurance policies from weather and crop data. (STATELINE.ORG)

OH ADOPTS DON’T ASK, TELL POLICY ON BUSINESS TAX

OVERPAYMENTS: The Ohio Department of Taxation failed to refund \$34 million in taxes overpaid by local businesses since 1999, owing to the fact that state law requires refunds only upon request and allows the state to keep any money not claimed within three to four years.

That’s about to change, however, thanks to the Legislature’s overwhelming passage — and Gov. John Kasich’s (R) expected approval — of SB 263, which will require state tax officials to automatically notify businesses and issue them refunds when they pay too much in taxes. The measure will also allocate \$682,000 in fiscal year 2015 for the work that will be involved in making those notifications.

Meanwhile, the state has been working on identifying and notifying businesses that have overpaid taxes in the past and has returned nearly \$29 million of the \$34 million in overpayments it has collected. (CLEVELAND.COM, STATE NET)

BUDGETS IN BRIEF: KANSAS officials’ underestimation of the full impact of income tax changes made in 2012 and 2013 contributed to the state missing revenue estimates by over \$300 million, according to the nonpartisan Kansas Legislative Research Department. Gov. Sam Brownback (R) and the Kansas Department of Revenue have repeatedly claimed the \$310 million shortfall was primarily the result of a federal capital gains dropoff (WICHITA EAGLE, STATE NET). • Boosted by the 4/20 pot holiday, recreational marijuana sales in **COLORADO** reached about \$22 million in April, an increase of about 17 percent over March sales and an increase of about 58 percent over sales in January (ASSOCIATED PRESS, GAZETTE)

The week in session

States in Regular Session: CA, DC, DE, MA, MI, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, PR, RI, US

States in Special Session: CA “b”, VA “a”

States currently prefilng for 2015 Session: KY, MT

States adjourned in 2014: AK, AL, AR, AZ, AZ “a”, CA “a”, CO, CT, DE “b”, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IL “a”, IL “b”, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, ME, MN, MO, MS, MS “a”, MS “b”, NE, NM, OK, OR, PR “a”, PR “b”, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, VT, WA, WA “a”, WA “b”, WA “c”, WI, WI “c”, WV, WV “a”, WV “b”, WY

Letters indicate special/extraordinary sessions

— Compiled By DENA BLODGETT
(session information current as of 6/11/2014)
Source: State Net database



[COLORADO SPRINGS)]. • **TEXAS** cattle ranchers cast votes this month on whether to impose a \$1 state “checkoff” tax on top of the \$1 federal checkoff on each head of cattle they sell to fund beef research and promotion (NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO).

– *Compiled by KOREY CLARK*

Politics & leadership

VA SENATE TIPS TO GOP CONTROL AFTER DEM’S RESIGNATION: Last week, Virginia state Sen. Phillip Puckett (D) announced his resignation, effective immediately.

That action has a major upside for the senator. His daughter, Martha P. Ketron, was named an interim judge by Circuit Court judges in Virginia’s 29th Judicial Circuit last year. But Senate Republicans blocked her confirmation for continued tenure on a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court on the grounds that it went against the tradition of not handing out judicial appointments to relatives of active legislators. Puckett’s resignation nullifies that objection.

His move, however, wasn’t very good for his fellow Democrats. The Senate had been split 20-20 between Democrats and Republicans but was effectively under Democratic control because of the authority of newly elected Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) to cast tiebreaking votes. Puckett’s departure tips the chamber to 20-19 in favor of the Republicans, with no call for Northam’s tiebreaking vote.

The Republicans wasted no time wielding their new power, invoking an obscure rule to call the Senate, which had been in recess, back into session and forcing the Democrats to accept a budget with no expansion of Medicaid, a point of contention between the two parties that had threatened a government shutdown with the end of the budget year approaching.

“This is shameful back-room politicking at its worst.”

What’s worse for the Senate Democrats is that the GOP’s domination of the chamber may not just be temporary. With Puckett’s district trending more Republican than when he first took office in 1998 — backing GOP candidates by 2-to-1 margins in the last two statewide elections — Republicans have a good chance of holding onto his seat when a special election is held to fill it.

Understandably frustrated by the turn of events, an unnamed Democratic official blasted Senate Republican Leader Tommy Norment for “using Puckett’s daughter’s judgeship as collateral to convince him to turn his back on the people who elected him.”

“This is shameful back-room politicking at its worst,” the official said.



Norment spokesman Jeff Ryer shot back: “It’s nice to know that after 16 years of service, Sen. Puckett can count on his fellow Democrats to treat him with respect upon his retirement.” (VIRGINIAN-PILOT [NORFOLK], WASHINGTON POST)

SECOND MOST POWERFUL U.S. HOUSE

REPUBLICAN OUSTED IN PRIMARY: Sen. Puckett’s resignation wasn’t the only big surprise in Virginia last week. On Tuesday, a relatively unknown economics professor took down the No. 2 man in the U.S. House of Representatives in a GOP primary in the state’s 7th District.

U.S. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, considered to be next in line for the

speakership, hadn’t faced a close challenge since first being elected in 2000. Nevertheless, Dave Brat, a professor at Randolph-Macon College, defeated him by a sizeable margin, 55.5 percent to 44.5 percent.

“This is one of the most stunning upsets in modern American political history.”

“This is one of the most stunning upsets in modern American political history,” said Larry Sabato, who heads the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia. “I’ve yet to find one person nationally or in the state outside the Brat circle who thought Cantor would be beaten.”

Brat’s victory came not only in spite of his relative lack of name recognition but also his comparatively diminutive campaign war chest.

“The reason we won this campaign is dollars don’t vote — you do,” he told supporters.

Certainly, issues important to conservatives played a major role in the race, with Brat, who had the backing of Tea Party activists, painting Cantor as insufficiently conservative on immigration, in particular. But Brian Turner, chairman of the political science department at the college where Brat is a member of the faculty, said he wasn’t sure “immigration was what really mobilized people to vote for Dave Brat.”

“I think there was a lot of anger at the Washington establishment,” he said. “That made Cantor vulnerable to a right-wing attack on whatever issue happened to be.”

Indeed, some voters expressed the view that Cantor had become a little too cozy with Washington.

“Eric Cantor lost touch with the people who sent him there,” said Jack Dove, a 60-year-old financial planner in a suburb of Midlothian. “He seemed to have his own career development in mind.” (RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, NEW YORK TIMES, POLITICO)

POLITICS IN BRIEF: Democratic leaders of MAINE’s Legislature are refusing to heed a call from Gov. Paul LePage (R) to convene a special session to

Upcoming stories

Here are some of the topics you may see covered in upcoming issues of the *State Net Capitol Journal*:

- **Mid-year reviews**
- **Voter ID**
- **Student loan debt**



address welfare reform, drug crime and nursing home care. “We have no intention of going back in,” said Senate President Justin Alford (D) (BANGOR DAILY NEWS). • **COLORADO’s** governor’s office has drafted legislation on local control of fracking that could keep the issue off the ballot in November. A special session could be called for June 16 to address the measure (COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE). • A federal judge ruled that **ALASKA** election officials must translate all election materials into the Native languages of Yup’ik, Cup’ik and Gwich’in for voters with limited English skills (ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS).

— *Compiled by KOREY CLARK*

Governors

PATRICK, CUOMO UNVEIL NEW ANTI-HEROIN PLANS:
 Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, both Democrats, unveiled wide-ranging new plans last week to address their states’ rapidly growing heroin and prescription opiate abuse problems.

The \$20 million proposal Patrick released last Tuesday would include creating more treatment centers, with at least one slated for rural Franklin County, which currently does not have one, and others to specifically target the Bay State’s Hispanic population and single parents with children. The plan would also require private insurers to cover a minimum level of addiction treatment and create a statewide database that would provide a real time inventory of available beds in addiction treatment facilities.

“These actions will help enhance our network of treatment and recovery services to help communities and families struggling with addiction,” Patrick said in announcing the plan.

He is also working to coordinate his state’s efforts with the other five New England governors, setting up a summit meeting this Tuesday at Brandeis University. Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee, Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy, Vermont Gov. Pete Shumlin and New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan, all Democrats, have all confirmed they will attend. Maine Gov. Paul LePage, the lone Republican in the group, declined, citing a previous commitment.

Lawmakers must approve most of the proposal before it can be implemented.

Gov. Cuomo’s plan, which does not need legislative approval, assigns an additional 100 officers to anti-narcotics units around the Empire State and provides all first responders — from police to firefighters and EMTs — with the anti-overdose drug Naloxone and the training to use it. It also makes heroin and opioid awareness a part of every student orientation program at the State University of New York and City University of New York campuses.



“We have a problem, and we have a problem with heroin, and we are going to do something about it,” Cuomo said. “And, what you hear today is a multi-pronged approach. We are going to deal with it on every level.”

Combatting the rise in heroin and other opiate abuse has become a major focus this year of New York lawmakers. Last week, the Senate approved two dozen bills aimed at curtailing it, though it is unclear if the Assembly will take them up before it adjourns this week. (BOSTON GLOBE, NEW YORK TIMES, BANGOR DAILY NEWS, NEWSDAY, NEW YORK GOVERNOR’S OFFICE)

BENTLEY PROPOSES PRISON

OVERHAUL: Citing extreme overcrowding, Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley (R) announced a new initiative last week to thoroughly review and overhaul the Heart of Dixie prison system. Bentley said the system is at 190 percent of capacity, housing over 25,000 prisoners in facilities made to hold only 13,000. That has led to accusations from the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program that the conditions are depriving prisoners of constitutionally-guaranteed physical and mental health care. It has also raised the possibility of the federal government taking control of the system, similar to what it has done in California.

The review, dubbed the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, will be a joint effort carried out by the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Department of Justice, with additional help and input from the Council of State Governments Justice Center. The groups will examine the system and work on possible changes. Earlier this year, lawmakers also created a new 24-member working group, the Prison Reform Task Force, to tackle the problem.

Nobody yet knows what changes might come, but it was clear last week that Bentley and prison officials think they could be in for a major fiscal hit. Andy Barbee, research manager for the CSG Justice Center, told those attending the Task Force’s initial meeting that they need to consider all options, including building more prisons. But getting the population down to even 130 percent of capacity via that route alone would mean building four new 1,500-bed prisons at a cost of \$420 million. Operating costs for those facilities would be over \$90 million a year.

In the hopper

At any given time, State Net tracks tens of thousands of bills in all 50 states, the US Congress and the District of Columbia. Here’s a snapshot of what’s in the legislative works:

- Number of 2014 Prefiles last week:** 0
- Number of 2015 Prefiles last week:** 150
- Number of Intros last week:** 735
- Number of Enacted/Adopted last week:** 637
- Number of 2014 Prefiles to date:** 21,427
- Number of 2015 Prefiles to date:** 215
- Number of 2014 Intros to date:** 77,686
- Number of 2013 Session Enacted/Adopted overall to date:** 40,747
- Number of 2014 Session Enacted/Adopted overall to date:** 21,568
- Number of bills currently in State Net Database:** 166,907

— Compiled By DENA BLODGETT
(measures current as of 6/11/2014)
Source: State Net database





State task force chair Sen. Cam Ward (R) said that's not a viable option, but noted that at least some new construction would have to be part of the solution. The alternatives, he said, will be even tougher to manage.

“If we don't solve our corrections overcrowding and the problems we have in corrections, then shame on us. Not because of our political careers but because of the impact on our children and grandchildren. It will bankrupt our General Fund budget,” he said. (MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER, ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, BIRMINGHAM NEWS, AL.COM, WSFA.COM [MONTGOMERY])

In case you missed it

A growing number of Millennials have entered elected office in statehouses around the country. But they are learning that changing the players is easier than changing the game.

In case you missed it, the story can be found on our Web site at <http://bit.ly/11yBN4X>.

MCAULIFFE MAY TRY MEDICAID EXPANSION ON HIS OWN: Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) is apparently considering using an executive order to expand Medicaid without the support of Old Dominion lawmakers. The issue came to a head last week when Senate Democrats conceded they did not have the votes to get an expansion bill passed, the result of Democratic Senator Phillip P. Puckett's sudden resignation after Republicans promised him a job on a state commission and a promise to speed up his daughter's appointment to a state judgeship (See Politics & leadership in this issue).

It was a bitter defeat for McAuliffe, who had made Medicaid expansion his top legislative priority. He had campaigned on the issue, and had continued to do so publicly even after his election. But while he had support at first from some moderate Republicans — at least three were on board with his plan — he continued to face fierce opposition from conservative lawmakers. But with the June 30 budget deadline looming, they backed off in order to ensure the government was not forced into a shutdown.

It is not clear yet whether he will try to impose the expansion via an executive order. Neither McAuliffe nor his staff would comment, though they are believed to be exploring the legality of such a move. But at least one Republican believes McAuliffe will do so.

“Unless they are relatively certain they'll lose” in court, said Jeff Ryer, a spokesman for Senate Republicans, “I can't imagine they won't go ahead.” (WASHINGTON POST, NEW YORK TIMES).

GOVERNORS IN BRIEF: The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected an appeal by CALIFORNIA Gov. Jerry Brown (D) to vacate an order that requires state officials to monitor each of almost 2,000 disabled prisoners currently held in county jails under his controversial prison realignment program. In his ruling, Judge Stephen Reinhardt said the state was “not absolved of all of its responsibility for ADA obligations as to the parolees” solely because they are now held in county jails (LOS ANGELES TIMES). • LOUISIANA Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) signed a

bill last week (SB 469) that bars public agencies in the Pelican State from suing the oil and gas industries for damages they might cause to the state's coastline. Jindal signed the measure in spite of warnings from state Attorney General James "Buddy" Caldwell and many other legal experts that it was so broadly written that it could unintentionally block hundreds of other pending lawsuits against oil and gas companies, including many dating back to the massive 2010 BP oil spill (TIMES-PICAYUNE [NEW ORLEANS]).

— Compiled by RICH EHISEN

Hot issues

BUSINESS: The **NEW YORK** Senate approves SB 7217, which would make the Empire State the fourth to ban the sale of powdered alcohol. **SOUTH CAROLINA, ALASKA** and **VERMONT** have previously banned sale of the product. The measure moves to the Assembly (WIVB4.COM [BUFFALO]).

- **VERMONT** Gov. Pete Shumlin (D) signs HB 552, which will raise the Green Mountain State minimum wage to \$10.50 by 2018 (BURLINGTON FREE PRESS).
- **ILLINOIS** Gov. Pat Quinn (D) signs HB 5354, the so-called "cupcake bill" that exempts home bakeries with monthly sales of less than \$1,000 from state and local regulation as long as people are told that the products are homemade (FOOD SAFETY NEWS).
- **DELAWARE** Gov. Jack Markell (D) signs HB 241, which bans the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors. Under the measure, e-cigarettes will be regulated in the same manner as tobacco products (NEWS JOURNAL [WILMINGTON]).
- **VERMONT** Gov. Pete Shumlin (D) signs SB 239, legislation that requires manufacturers of products that contain any one of 66 toxic chemicals to disclose when those chemicals are present in children's products. The law goes into effect July 1, 2016 (VERMONT GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, VERMONT DIGGER [MONTPELIER]).

CRIME & PUNISHMENT: The **PENNSYLVANIA** Senate approves SB 1261, a bill that moves injuring or killing a police dog from a third degree to a second degree felony. It heads to the House (PITTSBURGH BUSINESS TIMES).

- **LOUISIANA** Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) signs a quartet of bills aimed at curtailing human trafficking in the Pelican State: HB 1025, which creates the crime of unlawful purchase of commercial sexual activity and allows property seizure for certain human trafficking crimes; HB 569, which allows the creation of human trafficking courts by district courts; HB 1105, which requires that outpatient abortion facilities post the hotline number to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center; and HB 1262, which requires that women receive information on coerced abortions

and human trafficking before undergoing elective abortions (ADVOCATE [BATON ROUGE]). • The **NEW YORK** Senate approves SB 5946A, so-called “revenge porn” legislation that makes it a crime to post nude or sexually explicit photos of someone to the Internet without their permission. It moves to the Assembly (LONG ISLAND EXCHANGE). • The **PENNSYLVANIA** House approves HB 2107, another revenge porn measure that makes it a crime punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. It moves to the Senate (PENNLIVE.COM).

EDUCATION: A **CALIFORNIA** Court rules that the Golden State’s teacher-tenure laws, which among several things require teachers with the least seniority to be laid off first in bad times, are unconstitutional. Critics of the laws, which also grant teachers tenure in just two years, argue they make it almost impossible to fire poorly-performing teachers. The state’s two main teacher unions said they would appeal the ruling (SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS). • **ILLINOIS** Gov. Pat Quinn (D) signs HB 3724, a bill that requires high school students to get trained on how to operate mobile defibrillators and to learn CPR. The law goes into effect for the 2014-2015 school year (ILLINOIS GOVERNOR’S OFFICE, CHICAGO TRIBUNE). • **FLORIDA** Gov. Rick Scott (R) signs HB 851, legislation that allows so-called “dreamer” students — unauthorized immigrants brought to America as kids — to pay in-state college and university tuition. The law applies to undocumented students who attended a Sunshine State high school for at least three years (TAMPA BAY TIMES). • The **NEW YORK** Senate approves AB 2089, which requires colleges and universities to report all missing persons and potential violent felonies to law enforcement within 24 hours. It moves to Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) for review (ALBANY TIMES-UNION).

Upcoming elections

(6/13/2014 - 7/4/2014)

06/24/2014

Colorado Primary Election

House (All)

Senate Districts 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11, 13, 15-16, 20,22, 24, 30, 32 and 34

Constitutional Officers: Governor, Lieutenant

Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General

US House (All)

US Senate (Class 2)

Florida Special Election

US House (Congressional District 19)

Maryland Primary Election

House (All)

Senate (All)

Constitutional Officers: Governor, Lieutenant

Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller

US House (All)

Mississippi Primary Runoff

US House (All)

US Senate (Class 2)

New York Primary Election

Assembly (All)

Senate (All)

Constitutional Officers: Governor, Lieutenant

Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller

US House (All)

Oklahoma Primary Election

House (All)

Senate (Even)

Constitutional Officers: Governor,

Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Attorney General, Auditor and Inspector,

Commissioner of Labor,

Insurance Commissioner,

Superintendent of Public Instruction

US House (All)

US Senate (Class 2)

Oklahoma Special Primary

Senate District 5

US Senate (Class 3)



ENVIRONMENT: HAWAII Gov. Neil Abercrombie (D) signs HB 1714, a bill that will create a state-funded interagency committee of county and community representatives to make recommendations to Aloha State officials for how best to prepare for rising sea levels caused by global climate change. The committee will be required to issue a public report with those recommendations by the end of 2017 (HONOLULU CIVIL BEAT). • **ILLINOIS** Gov. Pat Quinn (D) signs SB 2727, a bill that makes the Prairie State the first in the nation to ban non-biodegradable synthetic microbeads from beauty products. The law requires the microbeads, which can contaminate waterways and harm wildlife, to be removed from manufacturing by the end of 2018 and bans their sale in Illinois by the end of 2019 (ILLINOIS GOVERNOR'S OFFICE).

Upcoming elections (cont.)
(6/13/2014 - 7/4/2014)

South Carolina Primary Runoff

Constitutional Officers: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, Comptroller General, Adjutant General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Superintendent of Education
US House (All)
US Senate (Class 2)

Utah Primary Election

House (All)
Senate Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 26 and 28
Constitutional Officers: Attorney General
US House (All)

HEALTH & SCIENCE: The **NEW YORK** Senate approves a 23-bill package aimed at combatting heroin and opiate abuse in the Empire State. The bills include SB 7661, which clarifies that charter and public schools may possess and use the anti-overdose drug naloxone, and are granted civil and criminal immunity if they do so; SB 2949, which limits pain-killer prescriptions to no more than a 10-day supply; and SB 7652A, which allows parents to petition a court to have their minor children forced into drug abuse treatment. All the bills move to the Assembly (BUFFALO NEWS, WBTA1490.COM [BATAVIA]).

SOCIAL POLICY: The **NEW YORK** Assembly endorses legislation dubbed the Gender Equality Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), which would prohibit discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations based on a person's gender identity or expression. It moves to the Senate (CAPITALNEWYORK.COM). • A federal judge rules that a **WISCONSIN** law barring same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb later denied a request from Wisconsin Attorney J.B. Van Hollen (R) to stay her ruling pending an appeal (CHICAGO TRIBUNE). • **NEW HAMPSHIRE** Gov. Maggie Hassan (D) signs SB 319, legislation that allows abortion providers to establish a protester buffer zone of at least 25 feet at the entrances to their buildings (BRATTLEBORO REFORMER). • **LOUISIANA** Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) signs two abortion bills: HB 388, which requires Pelican State doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at a hospital within a 30 mile radius of the facility they work at, and HB 305, which bars organizations like Planned Parenthood from



providing instruction or distributing information on health or sex education at public or charter schools (TIMES-PICAYUNE [NEW ORLEANS]).

POTPOURRI: The **RHODE ISLAND** House approves HB 7939, which would require the state to transmit the information of those involuntarily committed to a mental health facility to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The measure is now in the Senate (GUNS.COM).

— Compiled by *RICH EHISEN*

Once around the statehouse lightly

IT'S OFFICIAL...New York lawmakers have way, way too much time on their hands. This was made apparent last week when the Empire State Senate approved a measure naming the wood frog the official state amphibian. As the Hudson Valley's *Journal News* reports, the bill drew only a handful of dissenting votes. These included one from Sen. John Bonacic, who complained that “empowering a particular species” would pave the way for evil government regulators to dilute private property rights “in the name of overregulation.” Yes, for that specific reason. Anyway, back in reality, the bill now hops over to the Assembly, where its chances of getting a vote this week are poor. Not to worry, though. The Assembly did take up and pass a Senate-approved bill that would make yogurt the official state snack. It is on its way to the governor, who we're told is a fan. Of yogurt, anyway.

MR. NONE OF THE ABOVE: Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval is a virtual shoo-in for re-election this fall, and anyone taking him on is really just taking one for the team. How much of a shoo-in, you ask? In last week's Democratic gubernatorial primary, the top vote-getter was the box declaring “None of these candidates.” Ouch, babe. As the *Washington Post* reports, the “none” category scored 30 percent of the vote, with runner up Robert Goodman, a former state economic development director, tallying only 25 percent. Alas, Silver State law says only votes for candidates with actual names count in the official tally, meaning Goodman will face Sandoval in November anyway.

THIS SEEMS LIKE A GOOD SPOT FOR A LINE BREAK: She meant well. She really did. But as we all know, politicians and Twitter can be a really bad combination. As the *Huffington Post* reports, Haley took to the social network to



praise Palmetto State lawmakers for enacting a major education bill, saying “South Carolina made history this year by passing education reform. We will no longer educate children based on where they are born.” That’s great. What isn’t great is that she also included a link, which sent her way over Twitter’s 140-character limit. The subsequent cutoff left her with this as a second sentence: “We will no longer educate children...” Oops. The tweet was quickly scrubbed, but not before the Interwebs got to it, sending it viral. You can imagine the snarky reactions on your own.

A REALLY BAD WEEK: You almost have to feel sorry for failed U.S. Senate candidate Annette Bosworth. First, she got smoked in the June 3rd GOP primary, garnering only 6 percent of the vote. That was bad enough, but making matters worse was that she got the news during a live TV interview with Fox News mean girl, Megyn Kelly. Bosworth was understandably flustered when she was told, but the worst was yet to come. The next day, as the *Christian Science Monitor* reports, she was arrested and charged with six counts each of perjury and filing false election documents. South Dakota AG Marty Jackley says Bosworth lied when she claimed to be gathering voter signatures when she was really on a Christian mission overseas. Sounds like she may have another trip in her future, but this one’s probably going to keep her in-state. For maybe one to three years anyway.

— By *RICH EHISEN*



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Graphic Design: Vanessa Perez
State Net ISSN: 1521-8449



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