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AGRICULTURE
2. Greer, Lauren. "A bountiful harvest: SLC states and the 2012 census of agriculture." Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments. Jan. 2015. 12 pg. (This report from the Council of State Governments southern office, the Southern Legislative Conference, analyzes the economic contributions agriculture makes to our national and regional economies and highlights some of the commodities for which the 15 SLC member states make the largest contributions.)

3. Ott, Carolyn. "Relaxed U.S. trade policy with Cuba could mean huge economic upside for region's farm producers." Stateline Midwest. Vol. 24. No. 1. Jan. 2015. pg. 3. (Agriculture stands to be one of the biggest potential beneficiaries of President Obama's plan to ease economic and trade restrictions with Cuba.)

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES
4. Morgan, Rachel & Nina Williams-Mbengue. "State efforts to address child abuse and neglect." Legisbrief. Vol. 23. No. 1. Jan. 2015. 2 pg. (Experts say victims of abuse and neglect and their families often fear interviews and involvement with police and child protection agencies, or are afraid of retaliation from the perpetrators, prompting lawmakers to look for ways not only to decrease the maltreatment of children, but also to increase the reporting of abuse when it does happen.) VF: Child Abuse.

5. Shinkle, Douglas. "Catching unlawful school bus passers with cameras." Legisbrief. Vol. 23. No. 3. Jan. 2015. 2 pg. (States are looking to increase their ability to catch school bus passing scofflaws by allowing counties, cities or school districts to install cameras on school buses to record such violations.) VF: School Children-Transportation.

CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS
6. "Looking ahead: 2015 elections legislation." NCSL. The Canvass. Issue 55. Feb. 2015. pg. 1-3 (This article identifies a few emerging issues in the 2015 legislative session, including online voter registration and voter identification.)

COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA
7. Rose, Gene. "Hugging a cactus." State Legislatures. Vol. 41. No. 2. Feb. 2015. pg. 32-33. (This article contains tips on how to make your media interview a less prickly experience.)

COURTS
8. Foertsch-McKinney, Maureen. "Question and Answer." Illinois Issues. Vol. XLI. No. 2. Feb. 2015. pg. 10-11. (This is an edited, condensed version of a conversation between the author and retired police lieutenant Michael Schlosser, who has been the director of the University of Illinois Police Training Institute since 2012. His studies have focused on what he calls the intersection of policing and race.)
CRIME & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

9. Karch, Andrew & Matthew Cravens. "Rapid diffusion and policy reform: the adoption and modification of three strikes laws." State Politics & Policy Quarterly. Vol. 14. No. 4. Dec. 2014. pg. 461-491. (Despite many important recent advances in the study of policy diffusion, this research has devoted limited attention to what happens after the adoption decision. This article attempts to fill this gap in diffusion research by examining the adoption and subsequent modifications of "Three strikes and you're out" laws in the American states.)

10. "Justice reinvestment in North Carolina: three years later." Justice Center. The Council of State Governments. Nov. 2014. 8 pg. (Between 2010 and 2011, state leaders came together across party lines to take a hard look at their criminal justice system, and in a near unanimous vote, the legislature passed the Justice Reinvestment Act, a comprehensive package of reforms that touched almost every aspect of the criminal justice system.) VF: Criminal Justice Planning.


14. Jefferson-Bullock, Julia. "The time is ripe to include considerations of the effects on families and communities of excessively long sentences." UMKC Law Review. Fall 2014. pg. 73-116. (This article proposes an alternative federal sentencing model, one that punishes the illegal behavior of offenders, while simultaneously making significant strides toward preserving the family structure.)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

15. "Tax incentive programs." Pew Charitable Trusts. Jan. 2015. 17 pg. (The District of Columbia passed laws that will require regular evaluation of economic development tax incentives or will improve existing evaluation processes. This report advises states on how to design and implement these laws, to that tax incentives are evaluated regularly and vigorously, and so that lawmakers can use the findings to improve economic development policy.) VF: Economic Development.


EDUCATION


20. "Preparing to launch. early childhood's academic countdown." Quality Counts. Supplement. Education Week. Vol. 34. No. 16. Jan. 8, 2015. This special report highlights how educators and policymakers work to assure a strong start and sustained momentum from preschool onward. Contains four sections of research and information. Section one: getting prepared-Research shows young children form a great capacity for deep learning-crafting nuanced programs is the challenge. articles, chart or graph included. Section two: Into the pipeline-Kindergarten readiness & success, and what that entails. Section three: Stretching the fabric-literacy support, ed-tech in grades P-3. Section four: State of the states-tables ranking the states in various topics i.e., K-12 achievement, early foundations, equity and spending.


22. "State of the states 2014." Journal of Education Finance. Vol. 40. No. 3. Winter 2015. pg. 300-353. (Presenters at the State of the States Roundtable session at the 2014 National Education Finance Conference in Louisville were invited to submit their papers for publication. States represented in this section include AL, AR, CO, FL, IL, IN, KY, NE, NJ, NY, NC, OH, SC, TN, TX, VA, and WI. The papers address the following topics:
1. State issues affecting P-12 and/or higher education.
2. Funding priorities/trends for P-12 and/or higher education.
3. Changes to funding formula for P-12 and/or higher education.
4. Impact on school district or higher education budgets.

EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES


ENERGY

24. Roberts, Anne. "Charging forward: net metering policies in the SLC states." Southern Legislative Conference. Dec. 2014. pg. 1-12. (This article reviews the concept of net metering and analyzes the status and nature of net metering legislation and trends in the SLC member states.)


ETHICS


FINANCE & REVENUE

27. Hiltz, Allison & Luke Martel. "Supermajority vote requirements to pass the budget." Legisbrief. Vol. 23. No. 4. Jan. 2015. 2 pg. (Some states require an extraordinary vote to pass general appropriations bills for state operations. Although they are not spending limits in the traditional sense, requirements for a supermajority vote can limit spending decisions if agreement cannot be reached.) VF: Budget Procedure.

29. "Swapping with eyes wide open." State Policy Reports. Vol. 33. Issue 2. Jan. 2015. pg. 2-7. (In a recent analysis, Federal Funds Information provided information on state reliance on federal funds in a number of program areas. Such information could inform conversations about potential state-federal "swaps" in an era of constrained federal spending.)


**FIREARMS**


**HEALTH, WELFARE & SOCIAL SERVICES**

32. Morgan, Rachel & Nina Williams-Mbengue. "State efforts to address child abuse and neglect." Legisbrief. Vol. 23. No. 1. Jan. 2015. 2 pg. (Experts say victims of abuse and neglect and their families often fear interviews and involvement with police and child protection agencies, or are afraid of retaliation from the perpetrators, prompting lawmakers to look for ways not only to decrease the maltreatment of children, but also to increase the reporting of abuse when it does happen.) VF: Child Abuse.

33. Weiss, Suzanne. "Filling the gap." State Legislatures. Vol. 41. No. 1. Jan. 2015. pg. 32-35. (After years of spending cuts to mental health programs, lawmakers have begun to boost funding for the most effective approaches.)


35. Ehisen, Rich. "Governors." Capitol Journal. Vol. XXIII. No. 3. Feb. 2, 2015. pg. 8-10. (After two years of back and forth negotiations, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has given Indiana Gov. Mike Pence the approval to implement a Medicaid expansion plan that uses federal dollars to buy private health insurance for as many as 350,000 low income Hoosier State residents.)


**IMMIGRANTS**

37. Olson, Kate & Stephanie Potochnick. "In state resident tuition, policies for undocumented immigrants." Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs. Policy Brief. Report 1. Jan. 2015. 9 pg. (This brief examines the effects of in state tuition policies on high school dropout rates for the undocumented immigrant youth.) VF: Immigration.

38. Cannon, Lou. "States play conflicted role in immigration debate." Capitol Journal. Vol. XXIII. No. 5. Feb. 16, 2015. pg. 1-5. (With Congress still gridlocked on immigration, the real action has moved to the states; the path forward from there isn't really clear.)
MISSOURI HISTORY

39. "Inventory of Missouri state government functions, programs and activities." Prepared by the Missouri State Reorganization Commission. 1971. 470 pg. (State governmental structure, organization, methods and procedures for the better coordination, integration and operations of the state's executive departments.)


MOTOR VEHICLES


42. "How long has it been since your state raised its gas tax?" Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. Feb. 2015. 2 pg. (Many states’ transportation budgets are in disarray, in part because they are trying to cover the rising cost of asphalt, machinery, and other construction materials with a gasoline tax rate that is rarely increased.) VF: Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax.

43. "Most Americans live in states with variable rate gas taxes." Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. Feb. 2015. 1 pg. (The federal government and many states are seeing shortfalls in their transportation budgets in part because the gasoline taxes they use to generate those funds are poorly designed.) VF: Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax.


REFERENCE


46. State Expenditure Report. National Association of State Budget Officers. 2014. Ref. HJ 7550.572. 2014. 103 pg. (Baseline for the analysis of state spending; expenditure data are detailed by program area so that trends in state spending can be evaluated.)

47. Lobbying, PAC's, and Campaign Finance. 50 State Handbook. R KF 4920.Z95 L43.2015. 1745 pgs. +tables and index. (Lobbying, PACs and Campaign Finance: 50 State Handbook provides quick access to the regulations and laws covering campaign contributions and proper contact with elected officials in each of the 50 states and the federal government. Each state and the federal government has its own chapter.)

48. The Book of States. Vol. 46. 2014. The Council of State Governments. Ref JK 2403.B6.2014. 557 pg. (The 2014 volume includes 150 in-depth tables, charts and figures illustrating how state government operates. It also includes 29 articles from state leaders, innovative thinkers, noted scholars and CSG’s in-house policy experts that analyze and report on the transformations taking place in state government. Staff members mined more than 500 sources to obtain the information shared in The Book of the States.)


STATE & FEDERAL RELATIONS

50. "Swapping with eyes wide open." State Policy Reports. Vol. 33. Issue 2. Jan. 2015. pg. 2-7. (In a recent analysis, Federal Funds Information provided information on state reliance on federal funds in a number of program areas.)
Such information could inform conversations about potential state-federal "swaps" in an era of constrained federal spending.)

TAXATION


TRANSPORTATION

53. Reed, James B. "On the road (and bridge) again." *State Legislatures*. Vol. 41. No. 2. Jan. 2015. (In this era of declining revenues, more states are turning to the private sector to complete transportation projects.)