ANIMALS

1. Reed, James B. "State policies on service dogs for military veterans." Legisbrief. Vol. 23. No. 47. Dec. 2015. 2 pgs. (State legislatures are assisting veterans with disabilities by making it easier for them to use service dogs.) VF: Animals.

CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS


CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES


CIVIL RIGHTS


CRIME & CRIMINAL JUSTICE


DRUGS & DRUG TESTING

11. Johns, Tracy L. "Managing a policy experiment: adopting and implementing recreational marijuana policies in Colorado." State and Local Government. Vol. 47. No. 3. 2015. pg. 193-204. (The findings of this research indicate that the decision regarding adoption was a result of a combination of policy determinants and policy diffusion.)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT


EDUCATION


   1. Funding priorities/trends for P-12 and/or higher education
   2. Changes to the funding formula for P-12 and/or higher education
   3. Pressing issues affecting P-12 and/or higher education funding
   4. Exclusive to P-12 funding: diverting funds from public school districts
   5. Exclusive to higher education: trends in state funding for public institutions)

18. Superville, Denisa R. "Locked up youths see grim prospects in many states." *Education Week*. Vol. 35. No. 14. Dec. 9, 2015. pg. 1+. (The quality of schooling for tens of thousands of incarcerated juveniles falls far short of the education their peers receive in public schools, advocates say, raising major concerns about the prospects of one of the most vulnerable groups of students.)


21. Sawchuk, Stephen. "Law could spur changes in teacher requirements." *Education Week*. Vol. 35. No. 15. Jan. 6, 2016. pg. 14-15. (With the signing of the Every Student Succeeds Act, an era of significant federal involvement in teacher licensing and evaluation has come to an end—most notably, the new law does not require states to set up teacher-evaluation systems based in significant part on students' test scores—a key requirement of the U.S. Dept. of Education's state-waiver system in connection with ESSA's predecessor, the No Child Left Behind Act.)

22. Blad, Evie. "New law widens lens to gauge school success." *Education Week*. Vol. 35. No. 15. Jan. 6, 2016. pg. 15+. (A portion of the Every Student Succeeds Act that requires states to incorporate non academic factors into their accountability systems could help promote a broader vision of school success that extends beyond traditional measures, such as standardized test scores.)


24. Barlow, Sarah E. "School district reorganization options in Illinois." *First Reading*. Vol. 29. No. 2. pg. 1-6. (Decisions to redraw school district borders are mostly subject to final approval by the voters, and Illinois has a number of options for such changes.)


2. Tough balancing act on accountability.
4. Path to accountability taking bold new turns.
7. Policy hammers.
8. Highlighting NCLB-ERA research.
10. RC spread/QC scores.
16. Moving beyond just academics as a way to assess effectiveness.
18. At a Los Angeles school, carving safe spaces to share and learn.
20. States collaborate in pursuit of fresh accountability ideas.
23. In school turnaround efforts, Massachusetts enlists districts.
26. Measuring up: latest scorecard puts states, nations to the test.
   Tables:
   29. School finance.
   32. K-12 achievement.
   35. Methodology.
   36. Sources & notes.

EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES

26. Liss, Jessica L. & David A. Martin. "Accommodating transgender employees: what every employer needs to know." Journal of the Missouri Bar. Vol. 71. No. 6. Nov-Dec., 2015. pg. 308-312. (This article addresses the legal issues in the state or jurisdictions in which employers operate, and to assist employers with fulfilling their obligations toward transgender employees.)

ENERGY


ENVIRONMENT


FEDERAL RELATIONS


FINANCE & REVENUE


FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

32. Wheelock, David C. "Economics and politics in selecting federal reserve cities: why Missouri has two reserve banks." Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Review. Vol. 97. No. 4. 2015. pg. 269-
285. (Missouri is the only state with two Federal Reserve Banks, and it has long been alleged that political influence explains why Reserve Banks were placed in both St. Louis and Kansas City.)

FIREARMS

33. "Inslee launches program to combat gun deaths." Capitol Journal. Vol. XXIII. No. 40. Jan. 11, 2016. pg. 11. (Under Washington Gov. Jay Inslee's Executive Order, the state Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, the University of Washington and other state and local agencies will collect data on deaths and injuries related to firearms with the express purpose of coming up with strategies for reducing that violence.)

HEALTH, WELFARE & SOCIAL SERVICES


35. Wogan, J.B. "Restraining orders." Governing. Vol. 28. No. 3. pg. 43-48. (Patients with mental illness are being detained in emergency rooms, often for weeks at a time. Now some states are rethinking the entire psychiatric care system.)

36. Wang, Y. Claire, et al. "Severe obesity in adults cost state Medicaid programs nearly $8 billion in 2013." Health Affairs. Vol. 34. No. 11. Nov. 2015. pg. 1923-1931. (The authors analysis of population representative data indicates that severe obesity cost the nation approximately $69 billion in 2013, which accounted for 60% of total obesity related costs.)

37. Gortmaker, Steven L. et al. "Three interventions that reduce childhood obesity are projected to save more than they cost to implement." Health Affairs. Vol. 34. No. 11. Nov. 2015. pg. 1932-1939. (The authors discuss the cost effectiveness of seven interventions high on the obesity policy agenda: a sugar sweetened beverage excise tax, elimination of the tax subsidy for advertising unhealthy food to children, restaurant menus calorie labeling, nutrition standards for school meals, nutrition standards for all other food and beverages sold in schools, improved early care and education and increased access to adolescent bariatric surgery.)

38. Pomeranz, Jennifer L. "Outstanding questions in first amendment law related to food labeling disclosure requirements for health." Health Affairs. Vol. 34. No. 11. Nov. 2015. pg. 1986-1992. (This article analyzes the outstanding questions in First Amendment law related to commercial disclosure requirements and conducts legal analysis and policy evaluation for three current policies.)


HOUSING


INSURANCE
41. Miller, Debra. "Making the match for Medicaid expansion." *Capitol Ideas.* Vol. 59. No. 1. Jan./Feb. 2016. pg. 16. (Beginning in Jan. 2017, 30 states and the District of Columbia will be required to make a 5% matching payment for their Medicaid spending on their expansion populations. The match will climb to 6, 7 and then 10% in 2018, 2019, and 2020, respectively.)

42. Gabel, Jon R. et al. "In second year of marketplaces, new entrants, ACA 'co ops,' and Medicaid plans restrain average premium growth rates." *Health Affairs.* Vol. 34. No. 12. Dec. 2015. pg. 2020-2025. (The authors use data from the Marketplaces, state insurance departments, and insurer websites to examine patterns of premium pricing and the factors behind these patterns.)

43. Jacobs, Paul D., et al. "Insurer competition in federally run marketplaces is associated with lower premiums." *Health Affairs.* Vol. 34. No. 12. Dec. 2015. pg. 2027-2035. (The authors studied insurer participation and premiums during the first two years of the Marketplaces.)

44. Bandara, Sachini N., et al. "Leveraging The Affordable Care Act to enroll justice involved populations in Medicaid: state and local efforts." *Health Affairs.* Vol. 34. No. 12. Dec. 2015. pg. 2044-2051. (This study characterizes the national landscape of programs enrolling criminal justice involved populations in Medicaid as of Jan. 2015.)

45. Grob, Rachel & Mark Schlesinger. "Educating, enrolling, and engaging: the state of marketplace consumer assistance under The Affordable Care Act." *Health Affairs.* Vol. 34. No. 12. Dec. 2015. pg. 2052-2060. (In this article, the authors assess the current state of Marketplace enrollment assistance, synthesizing evidence from published evaluations and analyses of data from nationwide surveys of assisters.)

46. "The Stephen Group report to the Arkansas Health Reform Legislative Task Force." Oct. 2015. 16 pg. (The Stephen Group was hired to assess the status of the traditional (pre expansion) and expansion components of Arkansas Medicaid and make recommendations for improvement.) VF: Medicaid.

**PENSIONS & RETIREMENT**

47. Wang, Qiushi & Jun Peng. "An empirical analysis of state and local public pension plan funded ratio change, 2001-2009." *The American Review of Public Administration.* Vol. 46. No. 1. Jan. 2016. pg. 75-91. (The results of this analysis suggest that pension plans seeking to improve their funded ratios may need to revise their investment strategies, pay a higher percentage of their required contribution, require employees to pay more toward their pension benefit, and limit the use of automatic or consumer price index linked cost of living adjustments.)

**REFERENCE**

48. Buckley, John F. & Nicole D. Prysby. *2016 State by state guide to managed care law.* Wolters Kluwer. 2016. v.p.,with tables. (This reference provides access to each state's laws regarding the area of health care delivery, as well as coverage of the numerous issues and concerns faced by health care administrators, plans sponsors, attorneys, financial advisors, accountants and policymakers.) Ref KF 1183.Z95 573 2016


RELIGION


STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

53. Johns, Tracy L. "Managing a policy experiment: adopting and implementing recreational marijuana policies in Colorado." *State and Local Government.* Vol. 47. No. 3. 2015. pg. 193-204. (The findings of this research indicate that the decision regarding adoption was a result of a combination of policy determinants and policy diffusion.)

54. Khan, Aman & Olga L. Murova. "Productive efficiency of public expenditures: a cross state study." *State and Local Government.* Vol. 47. No. 3. 2015. pg. 170-180. (The results of this study show that there has been a general decrease in efficiency during the study period, with some exceptions, consistent with the growth trend in the national economy.)


TAXATION


TRANSPORTATION


transportation policy this year, adopting increases in motor fuel taxes that in some cases had been left unchanged for more than a decade.)