# THEN AND NOW

# 25 YEARS AGO

Articles from the Jan. 1986 issue of State Legislatures:

**♦** Top State Fiscal Issues of 1986:

financing education, reforming taxes, balancing budgets, building prisons

- ◆ The Legislators Behind the Personal Computers: "Enthusiasts envision the day when legislators take their personal computers as much for granted as their telephones."
- ◆ Three Pensioners for Every 10 Workers in 1984: "Average monthly pensions income was \$780 for men and \$440 for women."
- ◆ Rationing the Health-Care Surplus (Opinion): "Americans have never quite agreed on the social role of health care."

#### **DID YOU KNOW ...**



Helena, the capital of Montana, was founded in 1864 by four gold miners who struck it rich at the what they then called "Last Chance Gulch." Home now to about 30,000 people, it is the only

town with that name that is pronounced Hell-e-na (accent on first syllable). Towns with that name in 21 other states use the "Hel-ee-na" (accent on second syllable) pronunciation.

—From A Celebration of State Capitols, by Richard R. Gibson

#### WHOSE DOME IS IT?



**OSL ONLINE** 

To find out, go to: www.ncsl.org/magazine

# **SL ONLINE**

#### GO TO WWW.NCSL.ORG/MAGAZINE FOR MORE OF THE NEWS YOU NEED FROM STATE LEGISLATURES MAGAZINE.

#### THIS MONTH

#### FISCAL FORECAST



Read NCSL's latest "State Budget Update" for a look at the revenue and spending outlook for states for the rest of FY 2011 and what states face as they craft their FY 2012 budgets.

#### **LEADING LEGISLATURES**

NCSL's Leaders' Center helps legislative leaders meet the challenges of managing the institution and crafting the best possible public policy.

# ON THE CLOCK



Legislator compensation in 2010 did about what salaries did in the rest of the society—stayed flat or dropped. See a full chart of legislator compensation for 2010 and 2009 and 2008.

#### **LOOKING FOR JOBS**

Learn more about state programs aimed at job creation, small business development and other efforts to revive the economy.

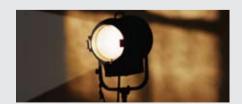


#### **REGULAR FEATURES**



# GRASSCATCHER

See what major news outlets are writing about state policy at State Legislatures' GrassCatcher. It's updated daily.



#### SPOTLIGH

Check out the latest NCSL research on our home page. Updated often.



## **BLOG: THE THICKET**

A bipartisan blog about the legislative institution and federalism written by and for legislative junkies. Updated often.