




CENTER FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES

PROGRESS IN THE STATES 20 07

A REPORT ON PROACTIVE, PROGRESSIVE VICTORIES IN 2007

The Center for Policy Alternatives (CPA) is proud that about 70 percent of the progressive laws enacted this year are promoted in the 2007 edition of its policy handbook, the *Progressive Agenda*, and on its website, www.stateaction.org. Such measures are designated by a  in this report.

CPA is also proud to acknowledge legislators who are alumni of CPA's Flemming Leadership Institute. Although only three percent of legislators are Flemming Fellows, they are sponsors of nearly 10 percent of the proactive victories won this year. They are designated by (FF 'xx), indicating their year of graduation.

BUDGET & TAXATION



Earned Income Tax Credit—Iowa

SF 590, House Committee on Ways and Means

Raises the state's EITC to seven percent and makes it refundable.

Earned Income Tax Credit—Kansas

HB 2031, House Committee on Taxation

Increases Kansas's refundable credit from 15 to 17 percent.

Earned Income Tax Credit—Louisiana

SB 341, Sen. Lydia Jackson

Provides a refundable EITC worth 3.5 percent of the federal credit.

Earned Income Tax Credit—New Jersey

S 2647/A 5001, Senator Ronald Rice and Assms. Bonnie Watson Coleman and Louis Manzo

Raises the income limit for the state's EITC to match the federal program's limit. Expands the credit from 20 to 25 percent of the federal credit over the next three years.

Earned Income Tax Credit—New Mexico

HB 436, Rep. Ben Lujan

Creates a refundable state EITC worth eight percent of the federal credit.

Food/Excise Tax Credit—Hawaii

SB 1882, Sen. Rosalyn Baker

Raises the income limit for the refundable food/excise tax credit to \$50,000 and increases the amount of the credit.

Income Tax—Arkansas

HB 1443, Rep. Keven Anderson

Raises the level at which the state starts taxing income.

Sales Tax—Arkansas

SB 185, Sen. Bobby Glover

Halves sales tax on many food items to three percent.

Tax Amnesty—Iowa

SF 580, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Creates a two-month tax amnesty period during which those with unpaid taxes can pay them in full, only be charged half the interest due, and avoid prosecution.

Tobacco Tax—Indiana

HB 1678, Rep. Charlie Brown

Increases the state's tobacco tax by 44 cents, revenues from which will go toward expanding and reducing the cost of health care coverage.

Tobacco Tax—Tennessee

HB 2354/SB 2326, Rep. Gary Odom and Sen. James Kyle, Jr.

Increases the tax on cigarettes by 42 cents. The revenue will be used primarily to fund education programs.

BUSINESS&LABOR



Big Box Development Restriction—Maine

LD 1810, Rep. Chris Barstow

Requires developers seeking to build retail establishments over 75,000 square feet to conduct an impact study and hold a public meeting. Prohibits such projects which would have an undue adverse impact on the region.

Family Leave Benefits—Washington

SB 5659, Sen. Karen Keiser (FF '02) and Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson (FF '97)

Grants parents a \$250 weekly stipend for a maximum of five weeks after the birth or adoption of a child.

Leave for Domestic Violence Survivors—Florida

HB 55, Rep. Ari Porth

Allows survivors of domestic violence up to three days leave in a twelve month period to handle related matters.

Leave for Domestic Violence Survivors—Oregon

SB 946, Sen. Kate Brown

Allows survivors of domestic violence to take reasonable leave to handle related matters.

Living Wage—Maryland

HB 430, Del. Herman Taylor, Jr.

Creates the first statewide living wage in America. In urban areas, the wage will be at least \$11.30 per hour; in rural areas, the wage will be at least \$8.50 per hour.

Majority Sign-Up—New Hampshire

SB 216, Sen. Martha Fuller Clark

Allows public employees to form a union if a majority of the workforce signs authorization cards.

Majority Sign-Up—Oregon

HB 2891, Rep. Michael Schaufler

Allows public employees to form a union if a majority of the workforce signs authorization cards.

Minimum Wage—Iowa

HF 1, Rep. Kevin McCarthy

Raises the state's minimum wage to \$7.25 by January 2008.

Minimum Wage—Kentucky

HB 305, Rep. J.R. Gray

Increases the state's minimum wage to \$7.25 by July 2009.

Minimum Wage—New Hampshire

HB 514, Rep. Marjorie Smith

Raises the state's minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 by September 2008. Tipped employees' wages will increase from \$2.38 to \$3.26.

Minimum Wage—New Mexico

SB 324, Sen. Ben Altamirano

Raises the minimum wage to \$7.50 by January 2009.

Minimum Wage—Vermont

S. 27, Sen. Richard Sears

Sets the minimum wage for tipped workers to increase at the same rate as the general minimum wage.

Right to Join Unions—New York

Executive Order, Gov. Eliot Spitzer

Allows day care workers to join public unions.

Tax Breaks for Retail Businesses—Arizona

HB 2515, Rep. Rick Murphy

Prohibits certain cities and towns from offering businesses tax incentives to locate within their borders.

Unemployment Insurance—Hawaii

HB 1500, Rep. Bob Nakasone

Increases benefits from 70 to 75 percent of wages and reduces business unemployment insurance tax.

Unemployment Insurance—Washington

SB 5373/HB 1406, Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles (FF '99)/Rep. Steve Conway

Requires professional employee organizations (PEOs) to register and report their clients to the state Employment Security Department, provides that the client company—not the PEO—is liable for unemployment tax. Mandates that the experience rating of a client company follows it when entering or leaving a contract with a PEO.

Unemployment Insurance—Washington

SB 5137, Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles (FF '99)

Changes the average amount that Washington employers contribute for unemployment insurance.

Unemployment Insurance for Domestic Violence Survivors—Louisiana

HB 963, Rep. Charmaine Marchand

Allows survivors of domestic violence to collect lost wage benefits if they are unable to continue working as a result of the domestic abuse.

CIVIL RIGHTS & LIBERTIES

Divestment to Support Human Rights in Sudan—Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Texas

CO HB 1184, Rep. Andrew Romanoff

FL SB 2142, Senate Governmental Operations Committee

HI HB 34, Rep. Roy Takumi (FF '96)

IN HB 1067, Rep. Dave Crooks

IA SF 361, Senate Committee on State Government

KS HB 2457, House Ways and Means Committee

MN SF 1075, Sen. Sandy Pappas and Rep. Karen Clark

RI HB 5142/SB 87, Rep. Joseph Almeida/Sen. Rhoda Perry

TX SB 247, Sen. Rodney Ellis (FF '94)

Divests the state's pension fund from companies that do business in Sudan.

Family Leave for Domestic Partners—Maine

LD 375, Sen. Dennis Damon

Expands the definition of family medical leave to include domestic partners.

GLBT Anti-Discrimination—Colorado

SB 25, Sen. Jennifer Veiga

Bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and religion in the workplace.

GLBT Anti-Discrimination—Iowa

SF 427, Senate Committee on State Government

Protects GLBT individuals from discrimination in employment, public accommodations, credit, housing and education.

GLBT Anti-Discrimination—New Jersey

S 362, Sen. Ellen Karcher

Prohibits gender identity-based discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations.

GLBT Anti-Discrimination—Oregon

SB 2, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Bans discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing and access to public services.

GLBT Anti-Discrimination—Vermont

S. 51, Sen. Diane Snelling

Bans discrimination based on gender identity in the workplace.

Marriage Equality—New Hampshire

HB 437, Rep. James Splaine

Legalizes civil unions for same-sex couples.

Marriage Equality—New Jersey

A 3787, Assm. Wilfredo Caraballo

Legalizes civil unions for same-sex couples.

Marriage Equality—Oregon

HB 2007, House Elections, Ethics & Rules Committee

Allows same-sex couples to enter into domestic partnerships that give them new rights relating to inheritance, child-rearing and custody, insurance and hospital visitation, and joint filing of state tax returns.

Marriage Equality—Washington

SB 5336, Sen. Ed Murray

Creates a domestic partner registry and gives same-sex and unmarried couples hospital visitation, autopsy authorization and inheritance rights.

Racial Profiling—Maryland

SB 1027, Sen. Lisa Gladden

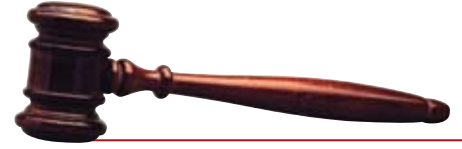
Extends a program that requires the collection and reporting of traffic-stop data.

Second Parent Adoption—Colorado

HB 1330, Rep. Alice Madden (FF '02)

Authorizes a child's primary parent to accept adoption by a second parent outside of a marriage.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Concealed Handguns—Nebraska

LB 97, Sen. Mike Flood

Extends concealed handgun prohibition to public and private colleges, universities and hospitals.

Gun Violence Prevention—Connecticut

SB 938, Senate Public Safety and Security Committee

Penalizes gun owners for failing to report a lost or stolen firearm to police within 72 hours.

Human Trafficking—Connecticut

SB 398, Senate Judiciary Committee

Creates a Trafficking in Persons Council to identify ways to assist victims of trafficking and their children and develop recommendations to strengthen state and local laws to combat trafficking.

Human Trafficking—Delaware

HB 116, Rep. Pamela Maier

Makes human trafficking a felony. Requires reports on how the state can assist and protect victims of trafficking.

Human Trafficking—Florida

HB 7181, Rep. Bill Galvano

Ensures immigrant survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence have access to social services.

Human Trafficking—Kentucky

SB 43, Sen. David Boswell

Criminalizes human trafficking.

Human Trafficking—Maryland

SB 606/HB 876, Sen. Jennie Forehand and Del. Jane Lawton

Establishes human trafficking as a misdemeanor and trafficking of a minor as a felony. Makes threatening or forcing someone into labor or service a felony.

Human Trafficking—Virginia

HB 2923, Del. Adam Ebbin (FF '06)

Creates a legislative commission to develop and implement a State Plan for the Prevention of Human Trafficking.

Indigent Defense—Louisiana

HB 436, Rep. Danny Martiny

Creates the Louisiana Public Defender Board to centralize control over the appointment of lawyers for the poor and adopt uniform standards for the provision of indigent defender services.

Juvenile Sex Offenders—Arizona

SB 1628, Sen. Karen Johnson

Ensures that youthful sex offenders are placed into treatment programs with youth of the same age and maturity level, allows defense counsel to challenge transfer of juvenile offenders to the adult court system, and requires annual probation review hearings for offenders less than 22 years of age.

Juvenile Transfer Reform—Connecticut

SB 1500, original bill by Sen. Toni Harp and Rep. Toni Walker

Budget bill includes a provision which raises the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to 18 for nonviolent offenders.

Juvenile Transfer Reform—Illinois

HB 1517, Rep. Annazette Collins

Raises the age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18 for youths charged with misdemeanors. Creates the Illinois Juvenile Jurisdiction Task Force which will submit recommendations on raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to age 17 for certain felonies.

Mandatory Minimums—Delaware

SB 126, Sen. Thurman Adams

Eliminates mandatory fines for certain drug charges, restoring judicial discretion to the imposition of the fines.

Protection from Self-Incrimination for Juveniles—Indiana

HB 1339, Rep. Charlie Brown

Protects juveniles from self-incrimination during a mental health evaluation provided during court, probation, or intake proceedings.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Consumer Rebates—North Carolina

SB 1055, Sen. Richard Stevens

Mandates that rebates offered by a person, firm or corporation engaged in commerce be provided to the consumer within 60 days of receipt of the completed rebate form.

Gift Card Consumer Protection—Arkansas

HB 1455, Rep. Will Bond

Prohibits gift cards which expire or charge fees within two years of sale. Expiration dates and fees charged after two years must be clearly displayed.

Gift Card Consumer Protection—Florida

SB 1638, Senate General Government Appropriations Committee

Prohibits the sale of gift cards with expiration dates or post-sale fees or charges.

Gift Card Consumer Protection—Minnesota

SF 69, Sen. Katie Sieben

Prohibits the sale of gift cards with expiration dates or service fees.

Gift Card Consumer Protection—Oregon

HB 2513, Rep. Carolyn Tomei

Prohibits the sale of gift cards which have expiration dates, or that decline in value over time or with lack of use.

Gift Card Consumer Protection—Utah

HB 261, Rep. Wayne Harper

Prohibits the sale of gift certificates that expire within five years of purchase.

Identity Theft Protection—Arizona

SB 1042, Sen. Chuck Gray

Requires any person conducting business in the state to notify individuals whose personal information may have been exposed in a security breach.

Identity Theft Protection—Arkansas

HB 2215, Rep. Bruce Maloch

Allows consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports.

Identity Theft Protection—Georgia

SB 236, Sen. Chip Rogers

Expands the requirement to report security breaches which may compromise personal information to state and local agencies, including public universities.

Identity Theft Protection—Indiana

SB 403, Sen. Phil Boots

Allows consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports.

Identity Theft Protection—Maryland

SB 52/HB 117 & SB 194/HB 208, Sen. Jennie Forehand/Del. Susan Lee & Sen. Delores Kelley/Del. Carolyn Howard

Allows consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports. Requires businesses to protect personal information from unauthorized access and to notify any individual whose personal information may have been compromised by a security breach.

Identity Theft Protection—Michigan

SB 309, Sen. Shirley Johnson

Mandates the notification of consumers when the security of their personal information has been breached.

Identity Theft Protection—New Jersey

S 1643, Sen. Gerald Cardinale

Makes it illegal for a loan company, credit rating agency or other business to reduce a borrower's credit rating or deny credit because of bills racked up by an identity thief.

Identity Theft Protection—Oregon

SB 583, Sen. Floyd Prozanski

Requires businesses to notify any consumers whose personal information may have been compromised by a security breach. Allows consumers to place a freeze on their credit reports.

Identity Theft Protection—West Virginia

SB 428, Sen. Jeffrey Kessler

Allows consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports.

Payday Lending—Arizona

SB 1446, Sen. Chuck Gray

Prevents lenders from rolling over short-term loans and requires them to offer credit counseling to borrowers. Prohibits borrowers from taking out more than one payday loan at a time.

Payday Lending—Nevada

AB 478, Assm. Barbara Buckley

Regulates all lenders whose interest rates exceed 40 percent; a law passed in 2005 only applied to loans with terms of less than a year. The law includes some fees and charges in the calculation of the percentage rate.

Payday Lending—New Mexico

HB 92, Rep. Patricia Lundstrom

Restricts the term of a payday loan from 14 to 35 days and caps interest fees at \$15.50 for every \$100 borrowed.

Payday Lending—Oregon

HB 2202-4/HB 2871, Gov. Ted Kulongoski and Rep. Jeff Merkley

Expands existing law to regulate lenders without physical presence in the state, such as Internet lenders. Limits check cashing fees, sets limits on interest rates and fees charged on vehicle title loans, limits annual interest rates on certain small loans, and prohibits two-week loans.

Payday Lending—South Dakota

HB 1172, Rep. Joni Cutler

Limits the maximum principal amount of any payday loan, or the total outstanding principal balances of all payday loans made by a licensee to a single borrower, to five hundred dollars at any time.

Predatory Lending—Iowa

HF 5, Rep. Lisa Heddens

Cuts the maximum annual interest rates on car title loans from 300 percent to 21 percent, the same rate that banks and credit unions are authorized to charge for loans that use cars as collateral.



EDUCATION



Civics in Schools—Connecticut

HB 7017, House Education Committee

Requires schools to include a program on democracy in the fourth or fifth grade curriculum to encourage student civic engagement.

Civics in Schools—Maryland

SB 492, Sen. Gwendolyn Britt

Creates the Commission on Civic Literacy to develop civic education programs and act as a clearinghouse for best practices.

Financial Literacy—New Mexico

HB 1205, Rep. Antonio “Moe” Maestas

Requires all high schools to offer financial literacy elective courses.

Health and Sexuality Education—Colorado

HB 1292, Rep. Nancy Todd

Requires school districts to offer sex education curricula that cover contraception, including emergency contraception and condoms.

Health and Sexuality Education—Iowa

HF 611, House Education Committee

Requires that all sex education classes teach medically accurate information only.

Health and Sexuality Education—Washington

SB 5297, Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen

Requires that all sex education classes teach medically accurate information only.

Safe Schools—Iowa

SF 61, House Education Committee

Protects students from harassment on the basis of sexual orientation, race, age or gender.

Safe Schools—Kansas

HB 2310, House Education Committee

Requires schools to implement policies that protect students from harassment and bullying.

ENVIRONMENT

Clean Cars—Maryland

SB 103/HB 131, Sen. Brian Frosh and Del. Elizabeth Bobo
Imposes tougher emissions standards on automobiles sold and registered in Maryland.

Clean Cars—Texas

HB 2293, Sen. Kirk Watson
Requires that state agencies purchase low-emissions vehicles as a minimum percentage of all vehicles purchased.

Clean Detergents—Maryland

SB 766, Sen. Brian Frosh
Prohibits the sale of dishwashing detergents containing phosphorus to reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

Clean Power Plants—Maine

LD 1851, Rep. Theodore Koffman (FF '00)
Establishes a cap-and-trade system for the state's six largest power plants to achieve a ten percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2019.

Energy Efficiency Standards—Colorado

HB 1037, Rep. Claire Levy and Sen. Joan Fitz-Gerald
Directs electric and gas utilities to expand their energy efficiency programs.

Energy Efficiency Standards—Maryland

SB 674, Sen. Paul Pinsky
Requires minimum efficiency standards to be set for certain products. Requires electric utilities to purchase more efficient transformers.

Global Warming—Arkansas

HB 2460, Rep. Kathy Webb
Establishes the Governor's Commission on Global Warming to create a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and study issues related to global warming and the carbon market.

Global Warming—Delaware

SB 18, Sen. Harris McDowell
Creates the Sustainable Energy Utility to coordinate and promote the use of sustainable energy in Delaware.

Global Warming—Hawaii

HB 226, Reps. Josh Green, John Mizuno and Cynthia Thielen
Requires the state to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

Global Warming—Iowa

SF 485, Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee
Creates the Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council. Directs the state to collect data on greenhouse gas emissions.

Global Warming—Maryland

Executive Order, Gov. Martin O'Malley
Joins the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Global Warming—Minnesota

SB 145, Sen. Yvonne Prettner Solon and Rep. Bill Hilty
Sets greenhouse gas reduction goals from 2005 levels by 15 percent by 2015, by 30 percent by 2025, and by 80 percent by 2050.

Global Warming—Nevada

SB 422, Sen. Dina Titus
Creates a program to inventory greenhouse gas emissions.

Global Warming—New Jersey

A 3301/S 2114, Assm. Linda Stender and Sen. Barbara Buono
Requires the state to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to eighty percent below 2006 levels by 2050.

Global Warming—Oregon

HB 3543, Rep. Jackie Dingfelder and Sen. Brad Avakian
Requires greenhouse gas emissions to stop increasing by 2010, calls for a 10 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2020 and a 75 percent drop from 1990 levels by 2050.

Global Warming—Washington

HB 1303, Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson (FF '97)
Directs state agencies to reduce fossil fuel use by 25 percent by 2020, requires state vehicles to use only biofuels or electricity by 2015, mandates a study on the impact of global warming, provides incentives for the development of in-state clean fuels, and replaces heavily polluting school buses.

Global Warming—West Virginia

SB 331, Sen. Brooks McCabe
Establishes a program to inventory emissions, reductions and carbon sequestrations of greenhouse gases. A voluntary registry will be created for persons or companies to report voluntary reductions in greenhouse gas emissions made before the reductions are required by law.



Green Buildings—Colorado

SB 51/HB 1087/HB 1309, Sen. Ken Gordon (FF '95), Rep. Robert Witwer and Rep. Claire Levy/Rep. Andy Kerr and Sen. Chris Romer/Rep. Paul Weissmann and Sen. Ron Tupa
Requires state buildings and buildings constructed with state funds to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Offers grants to schools to produce their own electricity with wind turbines. Provides funds to make schools more energy efficient.

Green Buildings—Maine

LD 785, Rep. John Piotti (FF '06)
Requires all state buildings to use only electricity from renewable sources by 2010.

Green Buildings—Maryland

SB 332/HB 942, Sen. Brian Frosh, Sen. James Brochin and Del. Bill Bronrott
Establishes a Green Building Council to advise the governor and lawmakers on construction of energy-efficient buildings.

Green Buildings—South Carolina

S 376/H 3034, Sen. Jim Ritchie and Rep. Joan Brady
Requires that state-funded construction of buildings over 10,000 square feet or renovations involving more than 50 percent of a building meet environmental standards set by either the U.S. Green Building Council or the Green Building Initiative.

Proper Disposal of Electronics—Connecticut

HB 7249, House Environment Committee
Requires the manufacturers of certain electronic devices, including computers, computer monitors and televisions, to pay an annual fee to finance a system for recycling the devices. After 2011, consumers must dispose of the covered electronics at specified locations.

Proper Disposal of Electronics—Maine

LD 1717, Rep. Christopher Babbidge
Requires cellular phone retailers to accept and recycle used cellular phones from any person at no charge.

Proper Disposal of Electronics—Maryland

HB 488, Del. Dan Morhaim
Creates a program to recycle electronics.

Proper Disposal of Electronics—Oregon

HB 2626, Rep. Scott Bruun and Rep. Jackie Dingfelder
Creates a program to recycle electronics.

Renewable Energy—Alabama

HB 123, Rep. Thad McClammy
Creates the Alabama Alternative Fuels Research and Development Fund and the Center for Alternative Fuels to promote and regulate alternative fuels.

Renewable Energy—Arizona

HB 2638, Rep. Olivia Cajero Bedford
Requires counties and cities with a certain number of residents to consider ways to increase energy efficiency and renewable fuels in their long-range plans.

Renewable Energy—Arkansas

HB 1379/SB 237, Rep. Benny Petrus/Sen. Robert Thompson
HB 1379 creates the Arkansas Fuels Development Fund and provides grants to producers and distributors of biofuels. SB 237 establishes goals for alternative fuel production and sets standards for the quality of alternative fuels.

Renewable Energy—Arkansas

HB 2812, Rep. Scott Sullivan
Allows the Arkansas Public Service Commission to require electric public utilities to consider clean or renewable energy sources in their resource plans.

Renewable Energy—Colorado

HB 1281, Rep. John Pommer
Doubles Colorado's Renewable Portfolio Standard to 20 percent.

Renewable Energy—Colorado

SB 246, Sen. Joan Fitz-Gerald and Rep. Bernie Buescher
Creates the Clean Energy Fund to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

Renewable Energy—Connecticut

HB 7432, Rep. James Amann and Sen. Donald Williams
Decouples state utilities' revenues from the volume of sales. Requires utilities to plan for increased energy efficiency and use of clean energy sources. Requires at least 20 percent of electricity to be provided by renewable sources by 2020. Adopts appliance efficiency standards for state purchases. Requires compliance with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and requires emissions permits to be sold to utilities, not given away.

Renewable Energy—Georgia

SB 157, Sen. Ross Tolleson
Provides grants for installing, replacing, and converting equipment to provide E-85 ethanol fuel for retail sale.

ENVIRONMENT CONTINUED

Renewable Energy—Hawaii

HB 506/HB 1003, Rep. Joseph Souki/Rep. Hermina Morita (FF '97)

HB 506 provides a tax credit to facilities that produce ethanol. HB 1003 creates a fund for the development of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies.

Renewable Energy—Idaho

HB 150/177, Rep. George Eskridge

HB 150 offers matching grants for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing or upgrading infrastructure to sell biofuels. HB 177 provides an income tax credit to fuel dealers or distributors who invest in biofuel infrastructure.

Renewable Energy—Indiana

SB 106, Sen. Timothy Lanane

Allows 21st Century Research and Technology Fund to provide grants or loans for the development of alternative fuel technology and production of fuel efficient vehicles.

Renewable Energy—Iowa

HF 918/HF 927, House Ways and Means Committee/House Appropriations Committee

The two bills establish an office to study renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Renewable Energy—Maine

LD 1159, Rep. Kenneth Fletcher

Directs the Office of Energy Independence and Security to develop a plan to build ethanol fueling stations.

Renewable Energy—Maryland

SB 261, Sen. Robert Garagiola

Establishes a task force on Renewable Alternative Fuels.

Renewable Energy—Minnesota

SF 4, Rep. Aaron Peterson and Sen. Ellen Anderson (FF '94)

Requires utilities to generate 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025. Utilities owning a nuclear generating facility as of 2007 must generate 30 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

Renewable Energy—New Hampshire

HB 873, Rep. Suzanne Harvey

Increases the state's renewable portfolio standards to 25 percent by 2025.

Renewable Energy—New Hampshire

HB 689, Rep. David Borden

Establishes a commission to study biodiesel fuel.

Renewable Energy—New Mexico

SB 463, Sen. Carlos Cisneros

Provides tax credits for renewable energy production, sustainable buildings, biodiesel fuel production, agricultural water conservation, and other clean energy technologies.

Renewable Energy—Oregon

HB 2210, filed at the request of Gov. Ted Kulongoski

Offers a tax credit to producers and consumers of renewable fuels. Requires a certain percentage of renewable fuels to be blended into diesel and gasoline. Requires the Dept. of Energy to study the economic impact of biofuels.

Renewable Energy—Oregon

SB 838, Sen. Brad Avakian

Requires large electric utilities to purchase 25 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2025.

Renewable Energy—South Carolina

SB 243, Sen. Nikki Setzler

Establishes a grant program for hydrogen production and requires state agencies to consider machinery operated by hydrogen or fuel cells.

Renewable Energy—Texas

HB 1090, Rep. David Swinford and Sen. Mike Jackson

Establishes a grant program to encourage the construction of facilities that generate electric energy with certain types of agricultural residues, waste, debris, or crops.

Renewable Energy—Virginia

Executive Order, Gov. Tim Kaine

Requires state agencies to reduce spending on nonrenewable energy purchases by at least 20 percent by 2010.

Renewable Energy—Washington

SB 5009, Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen

Exempts biodiesel fuel used for farm use from sales tax.

Transmission of Renewable Energy—Colorado

SB 91/SB 100/HB 1150, Sen. Gail Schwartz and Rep. Tom Massey/Sen. Joan Fitz-Gerald and Rep. Liane McFadyen/Rep. Cory Gardner and Sen. Kenneth Kester

Provides incentives to improve renewable energy transmission.

HEALTH



Access to Contraceptives—Montana

HB 118, Rep. Teresa Henry

Allows nurses to dispense any contraceptive.

Access to Contraceptives—Oregon

HB 2700, Rep. Diane Rosenbaum

Requires prescription coverage plans to include contraceptives, and provides sexual assault victims access to emergency contraceptives.

All Kids Coverage—Colorado

SB 211, Sen. Bob Hagedorn and Rep. Anne McGihon (FF '04)

Creates a committee to develop a plan to insure all children in Colorado by 2010.

All Kids Coverage—Hawaii

HB 1008, Rep. Josh Green

Increases coverage to children at 300 percent of the federal poverty level and creates a three year pilot program to expand coverage to uninsured newborns and children who are not eligible for state or federal programs.

All Kids Coverage—Oklahoma

SB 424, Sen. Tom Adelson

Expands Medicaid eligibility to children in families earning up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level—the current limit is 185 percent.

All Kids Coverage—Washington

SB 5093, Sen. Chris Marr

Expands access to state health care for low-income children by providing free or state-subsidized coverage to any family making 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

EC in the ER—Arkansas

SB 847, Sen. Mary Anne Salmon

Requires that sexual assault victims be provided information about and access to emergency contraception.

EC in the ER—Colorado

SB 60, Sen. Betty Boyd (FF '03) and

Rep. Anne McGihon (FF '04)

Requires that hospital personnel inform rape victims about the option of taking emergency contraception.

EC in the ER—Connecticut

SB 1343, Senate Human Services Committee

Requires hospitals, including Catholic hospitals, to offer emergency contraception to victims of sexual assault.

EC in the ER—Minnesota

SF 1266, Sen. Sandy Pappas

Requires that sexual assault victims be provided information about and access to emergency contraception.

Fire-Safe Cigarettes—Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island

CT SB 703, Sen. Thomas Gaffey

DE HB 149, Rep. Clifford Lee

IA HF 718, House Committee on Human Resources

KY SB 134, Sen. Gary Tapp

ME LD 70, Rep. Peter Rines

MD SB 361, Sen. Mike Lenett

NJ A 2575, Assm. Jack Connors

OR HB 2163, Gov. Ted Kulongoski

RI SB 106, Sen. James E. Doyle II

Requires the sale of self-extinguishing cigarettes.

Health Care Cost and Quality—Washington

SB 5930, Sen. Karen Keiser (FF '02)

Establishes a Health Insurance Partnership to help small businesses with the cost of providing health insurance, creates an electronic health record bank, expands coverage of dependents up to age 25, convenes a Quality Forum to evaluate healthcare trends across the state, and changes reimbursement procedures to reward prevention and better management of chronic illnesses.

Health Information Technology and Exchange—Colorado

SB 196, Sen. Bob Hagedorn and Rep. Tom Massey

Creates the health information technology advisory committee to develop a plan to use technology such as electronic health records, regional data sharing and privacy and security measures.

Health Information Technology and Exchange—Indiana

SB 551, Sen. Gary Dillon

Creates a public-private entity to research and facilitate health information exchange programs that maintain patient privacy.

HEALTH CONTINUED

Health Information Technology and Exchange—Maryland

HB 979, Del. Shane Pendergrass

Establishes a health information exchange pilot project.

Health Insurance Coverage—Colorado

HB 1355, Rep. Anne McGihon (FF '04) and Sen. Bob Hagedorn

Prevents health insurance providers from using past claims or health status to raise group premiums for small businesses.

Health Insurance Coverage—Idaho

SB 1105, Sen. Dean Cameron

Allows unmarried dependents under age 21, unmarried and full-time students under the age 25, and dependents of any age who are disabled to remain covered by their parents' health insurance.

Health Insurance Coverage—Maine

LD 841, Rep. Christopher Barstow

Requires health insurers to cover dependents until age 25.

Health Insurance Coverage—Maryland

HB 1057, Del. Heather Mizeur

Allows unmarried dependents under age 25, including children of domestic partners and grandchildren, to remain covered by their guardians' health insurance as long as they reside with the insured.

Health Insurance Coverage—Montana

SB 419, Sen. Greg Lind

Allows parents to keep unmarried children on their health insurance plans until the age of 25.

Health Insurance Coverage—South Dakota

SB 108, Sen. Yvonne Wilson

Requires insurance companies to offer parents the option to continue coverage of full-time students for five years beyond the current law. The law will not apply to students who obtain other insurance before the age of 24.

Health Insurance Coverage—Washington

HB 1569, Rep. Eileen Cody

Establishes a partnership for the purchase of small employer health insurance coverage.

Healthy Vending Machines—Rhode Island

SB 81, Sen. Susan Sosnowski

Requires high schools to offer healthier food.

Medical Marijuana—New Mexico

SB 523, Sen. Shannon Robinson

Allows sick patients to use marijuana issued by the state health department.

Medical Marijuana—Rhode Island

HB 6005, Rep. Thomas C. Slater

Makes permanent a program allowing the use of medical marijuana to treat chronic diseases.

Medical Marijuana—Vermont

SB 7, Sen. Richard Sears

Expands list of debilitating conditions for which patients can be prescribed medical marijuana.

Mental Health Parity—Colorado

SB 36, Sen. Moe Keller and Rep. Debbie Stafford

Makes additional mental health illnesses eligible for health care coverage equal to that offered for physical illnesses.

Mental Health Parity—Washington

HB 1460/SB 5446, Rep. Shay Schual-Berke (FF '01)/

Sen. Karen Keiser (FF '02)

Require health insurers to offer mental health coverage that is equivalent to medical coverage to small businesses and individuals.

Mental Health Services for Children—Washington

HB 1088, Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson (FF '97)

Expands publicly funded mental health services for children, including earlier treatment of illnesses and better medication management.

Oral Health—Iowa

HF 906, House Appropriations Committee

Requires that children have dental checkups before entering elementary and high schools.

Pharmacist Refusals—New Jersey

AB 992, Assm. Linda Stender

Requires pharmacists to fill all prescriptions without undue delay—regardless of moral, philosophical, or religious beliefs. If the drug is not in stock, the pharmacist must order it or locate a nearby pharmacy which does have it.

Prescription Drug Marketing—Maine 🇲🇪

LD 4/839/1440, Sen. Lisa Marraché and Rep. Sharon Treat (FF '94)

Restricts access to doctors' prescription records. Establishes an academic detailing program. Prohibits the sale of prescribing software that tries to direct a health care professional to prescribe a certain drug.

Prescription Drug Prices—Colorado 🇨🇴

SB 1, Sen. Bob Hagedorn and Rep. Alice Madden (FF '02)

Allows the state to collaborate with private sector pharmacies to negotiate lower prices for generic drugs.

Prescription Drug Prices—Colorado 🇨🇴

Executive Order, Gov. Bill Ritter

Creates a preferred drug list for Medicaid patients and enables entry into multi-state purchasing pools.

Prescription Drug Prices—Hawaii 🇭🇮

HB 10, Rep. Roy Takumi (FF '96)

Requires the Dept. of Human Services to negotiate rebate agreements with drug manufacturers and to inform health care providers of the difference in drug costs between manufacturers with rebate agreements and those without agreements.

Prescription Drug Prices—Iowa 🇮🇦

SF 512, Senate Committee on State Government

Places new restrictions on Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and creates a study commission to consider additional rules for auditing and disclosure.

Prescription Drug Prices—Maine 🇲🇪

LD 807, Rep. Sharon Treat (FF '94)

Requires pharmacies to charge customers their customary price for a drug or the customer's copay, whichever is less.

Prescription Drug Prices—Oregon 🇴🇷

SB 362, Sen. Bill Morrisette

Allows employers to enroll their underinsured employees in the program that currently offers discount drugs to low-income senior citizens and the uninsured.

Prescription Drug Pricing and Marketing—Vermont 🇻🇲

SB 115, Senate Committee on Finance

Restricts access to doctors' prescription records, and encourages the use of generic drugs to reduce costs.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care—Colorado

SB 242, Sen. Peter Groff and Rep. Jerry Frangas

Creates the Office of Health Disparities to work towards eliminating racial, ethnic and rural health disparities.

Required Testing of Infants—West Virginia

HB 2583, Del. Barbara Hatfield

Expands required newborn testing to allow 26 additional tests, including tests for sickle-cell anemia, cystic fibrosis and hearing deficiency. A positive result on any test must be reported to the Bureau for Public Health by the laboratory performing the tests.

SCHIP—Louisiana

HB 542, Rep. Monica Walker and Sen. Diana Bajoie

Allows families with incomes between 200 and 300 percent of the federal poverty level to buy into Louisiana's CHIP program or receive subsidies to purchase private plans.

SCHIP—Montana

SB 22, Sen. Dan Weinberg

Expands CHIP eligibility to families earning up to 175 percent of the federal poverty level.

SCHIP/Health Information Technology and Exchange—Connecticut

SB 1484, Sen. Donald Williams

Expands SCHIP coverage to children at 400 percent of the federal poverty level and expands eligibility for pregnant women and caretaker relatives. Automatically enrolls uninsured newborns in SCHIP. Creates a state-wide electronic health information system. Allows children to stay covered by their parents' insurance through age 26.

Smoke-Free Workplaces—Illinois 🇮🇱

SB 500, Sen. Terry Link

Prohibits smoking in restaurants, bars, casinos and many other places across the state.

Smoke-Free Workplaces—Maryland 🇲🇩

SB 91, Sen. Robert Garagiola

Bans smoking in or near restaurants, bars and other public businesses.

HEALTH CONTINUED

Smoke-Free Workplaces—Minnesota

SF 238, Sen. Kathy Sheran

Bans smoking in bars, restaurants and bingo halls.

Smoke-Free Workplaces—New Hampshire

SB 42, Sen. David Gottesman

Bans smoking in bars and restaurants.

Smoke-Free Workplaces—New Mexico

HB 283, Rep. Al Park

Bans smoking in all indoor public establishments.

Smoke-Free Workplace—Tennessee

SB 1325/HB 1851, Sen. Jim Tracy and Rep. Stratton Bone

Bans smoking in nearly all enclosed public spaces. The exceptions to the ban include businesses that serve only those 21 and older, cigar bars and tobacco stores, and designated hotel and motel rooms.

STD Treatment—Maryland

SB 349, Sen. Nathaniel McFadden

Authorizes doctors to prescribe antibiotics to partners of patients with STDs without requiring an initial consult.

Stem Cell Research—Iowa

SF 162, Sen. Joe Bolkom

Eases restrictions on embryonic stem cell research in Iowa.

Stem Cell Research—Michigan

HB 6291, Rep. Glenn Steil

Develops a statewide network of umbilical cord blood stem cell banks.

ELECTIONS



Ballot Initiative Reform—Oregon

HB 2082, requested by the Secretary of State

Requires all paid signature gatherers to register with the state and complete a training program. Strengthens restrictions on paid signature gatherers.

Early and Absentee Voting—Colorado

SB 234, Sen. Ken Gordon (FF '95) and Rep. Claire Levy

Allows voters to permanently vote by mail instead of requesting an absentee ballot for each election.

Early and Absentee Voting—Maryland

SB 1, Sen. Thomas V. "Mike" Miller

Places a question on the ballot to authorize early voting.

Election Day Registration—Iowa

HF 653, House State Government Committee

Allows citizens to register and vote on Election Day.

Ethics—Alaska

HB 109, by request of Gov. Sarah Palin

Requires lobbyists to undergo an ethics training course and report meals purchased for legislators. Requires legislators to report gifts from a single source worth more than \$250 and regulates legislators' outside consulting contracts.

Ethics—New York

A 3736, Assm. Sheldon Silver

Implements sweeping ethics reforms.

Paper Trail—Florida

SB 960/HB 537, Sen. Lee Constantine and Rep. David Rivera

Requires the replacement of touch screen voting machines with optical-scan paper ballots. However, the bill also introduces voter ID restrictions.

Paper Trail—Maryland

SB 392, Sen. Edward Kasemeyer

Mandates that electronic voting systems produce voter-verifiable paper records.

Voting Rights Restoration—Florida

Executive Order, Gov. Charlie Crist

Restores voting rights and certain other rights to ex-felons who have completed their sentences.

Voting Rights Restoration—Maryland

SB 488, Sen. Gwendolyn Britt

Restores voting rights to criminals once they have completed their sentences.

HOUSING

Eminent Domain—Connecticut

SB 167, Senate Judiciary Committee

Prohibits the taking of property solely to increase taxes. Requires a public hearing before property is seized. Requires owners be compensated for 125 percent of the value of their property.

Eminent Domain—Montana

SB 363, Sen. Christine Kaufmann (FF '03)

Limits the state's use of eminent domain by placing restrictions on the projects for which property can be seized.

Eminent Domain—South Carolina

SB 155, Sen. George Campsen

Limits the state's use of eminent domain by placing restrictions on the projects for which property can be seized.

Housing Rights for Domestic Violence Survivors—Arizona

SB 1227, Sen. Timothy Bee

Allows a tenant who is a survivor of domestic violence to terminate a rental agreement without penalty.

Housing Rights for Domestic Violence Survivors—Arkansas

HB 2534, Rep. Lindsley Smith

Prohibits a landlord from terminating or refusing to renew a lease because of domestic abuse. Allows survivors of domestic violence to have the locks on their dwelling changed.

Housing Rights for Domestic Violence Survivors—Indiana

HB 1509, Rep. Linda Lawson

Allows a tenant who is a survivor of domestic violence to terminate a rental agreement without penalty and to have locks on the dwelling promptly changed.

Mobile Home Park Tenant Rights—Oregon

HB 2735, Rep. Mike Schaufler and Rep. Chris Edwards

Requires mobile home park landlords to provide tenants with a year's notice and a set compensation before closing the park or selling the land for another use.

Mortgage Rescue Fraud Prevention—Indiana

SB 390, Sen. John Broden

Requires persons initiating a foreclosure to notify homeowners that a state consumer protection office is available to help them, guarantees that homeowners can rescind foreclosure consulting contracts, limits what foreclosure consultants can do and how much they can charge, and limits the terms of any foreclosure contract.

Predatory Lending—Colorado

HB 1322, Rep. Rosemary Marshall and Sen. Peter Groff

Helps prevent mortgage fraud by requiring brokers to ensure a loan takes into account a borrower's financial situation.

Predatory Lending—Colorado

SB 85, Sen. Jennifer Veiga and Rep. Tom Massey

Prohibits brokers from trying to influence an appraiser through coercion, intimidation, or compensation.

Predatory Lending—Colorado

SB 216, Sen. Jennifer Veiga and Rep. Rosemary Marshall

Creates consumer protections including prohibiting brokers from recommending loans with no reasonable benefit to the borrower and requiring brokers to make an inquiry into the borrower's financial situation and take that into account when recommending a loan.

Predatory Lending—Maine

LD 1869, Rep. Glenn Cummings

Requires lenders to ensure borrowers can repay loans and have received counseling on the advisability of the loan. Prohibits prepayment penalties and "flipping."

Predatory Lending—Minnesota

SF 809/HB 1004, SF 988/HF 931,

Sen. Linda Higgins (FF '01)/Rep. Jim Davnie,

Sen. Linda Higgins (FF '01)/Rep. Joe Mullery

The two bills require lenders to ensure borrowers can repay loans and have received counseling on the advisability of the loan.

The Center for Policy Alternatives (CPA) is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization working to strengthen the capacity of state legislators to lead and achieve progressive change. Founded in 1975, CPA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, supported by foundations, unions, corporations and individuals.

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ISBN 0-89788-208-3



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