2017 Policy Trends

Laura Tobler
Laura.tobler@ncsl.org
About NCSL

NCSL is YOUR organization, and we are committed to your success. We are a trusted and reliable resource for legislators and staff, and we have been for more than 40 years. Turn to us when you need:

— SUPPORT
— IDEAS
— CONNECTIONS
— STRONG VOICE
SUPPORT

We work to support legislators and legislative staff.
When you need to know the newest and best approaches to issues, we’re here for you.
Trivia

How many total U.S. state legislative seats are there?
7,383
Priorities and Trends in Policy: Education

• The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, 2016) requires all states to submit a plan. Gives states more flexibility.

• Concern about K-12 student performance.

• Career training; job readiness (workforce development)

• Higher ed student debt.

• K-12 education spending accounts for about 33% of total state spending; higher ed about 9% for a total of 42%. Federal funding is about 7% and limited.
Priorities and Trends in Policy:
Transportation Infrastructure/Financing

• Perennial issue.
• Real spending on U.S. infrastructure was down 9 percent between 2003 and 2014.
• Trump—proposed a 10-year, $1 trillion fix.
• Legislatures continue to look at public-private partnerships or increased private-sector involvement.
Priorities and Trends in Policy: Medicaid and ACA

• Everyone wants to know about “repeal and replace” of the Affordable Care Act.
• Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia have expanded Medicaid coverage to millions of people.
• Medicaid block grants?
• Per capita cap?
• States are waiting to react to federal changes, few exceptions.
Priorities and Trends in Policy: Substance Abuse Disorder/Opioid Misuse

• Federal funding for the first time; priority for a majority of the states

• State legislation: Rx drug monitoring programs, pain clinic regulation, preferred drug lists, state-wide awareness campaigns, rescue drug regulation.

• Costs: $560 million in health care spending; $635 in lost worker productivity.
Trivia

How many states have legalized or are in the process of legalizing recreational use of marijuana?
Priorities and Trends in Policy: Marijuana

- Recreational marijuana legalization continues to spread. Voters in CA, ME, MA and NV approved adult-use recreational marijuana through ballot measures. (AZ said no).
- CO, WA, AK, OR and DC legalized recreational use earlier.
- 28 states and DC allow for medicinal use.
- License and regulate cultivation and retail shops; preventing children from misusing; public safety.
State Policy Priorities for 2017

- Transportation Infrastructure and funding
- Medicaid
- K-12 Education and Higher Education Funding
- ESSA implementation
- Government pensions; budget shortfalls
- Substance misuse, especially opioids
- Federal changes to health and human services policies/programs
- Job creation/advanced manufacturing/workforce development
- Marijuana legalization
Trivia

Post 2016 election, how many states have Republican control in both chambers of the legislature?
State Legislatures 2017

- Republican - 32
- Democrat - 14
- Split - 3
- Nonpartisan/Undecided - 2
State Governments 2017

- Republican - 24
- Democrat - 7
- Divided - 18
- Nonpartisan - 1
Modeling Best Practices

• Number one question asked of NCSL: what have other states done?
• NCSL collects legislation/policy information from all states and territories
• Examples
**STRONG VOICE**

We advocate for you in our nation’s capitol.
State-Federal Policy Priorities

- Grant states remote sales tax collection authority
- Cybersecurity, including clearance for legislators, energy security and reliability, voting
- Responding to changes in the federal tax code
- Medicaid – monitoring programmatic changes and ensuring support for state program innovation and waiver flexibility
- Criminal justice reform
- Access to broadband
- Infrastructure funding and financing
- State budget certainty
- Balanced Budget Amendment
- Choice in education
- State impact of possible changes to federal regulations
GET INVOLVED

Your participation is welcome and strengthens states across the nation.
CONNECTIONS

We link you to the best and brightest experts in the nation.
NCSL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT
Boston, Massachusetts
August 6-9, 2017
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Denver  303-364-7700
Washington, D.C.  202-624-5400
www.ncsl.org