

# Illegal Workers



November 19, 2007

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● The next issue of Capitol Journal will be available on December 3rd.

## Top Story

*Earlier this year, ARIZONA and OKLAHOMA adopted some of the toughest anti-illegal immigration laws in the country. Now, with Congress's failure to address immigration reform, numerous states may consider harsh statutes of their own.*

## SNCJ Spotlight

### OK, AZ immigration laws may spread to other states

**L**awmakers in at least a dozen states are mulling whether to introduce anti-illegal immigration measures similar to those adopted this year in OKLAHOMA and ARIZONA.

The OKLAHOMA statute denies undocumented aliens public benefits like welfare, allows police to detain illegals and exposes employers to state fines and civil liability for employing undocumented workers instead of legal residents. GEORGIA and COLORADO had previously enacted tough

immigration control policies as well, but the Sooner State is now generally considered to have the strictest such measure in the nation.

Randy Terrill, who authored the bill (HB 1804) says he is not surprised other states are looking at playing copy-cat with his measure, particularly since it has since held up to at least one aggressive court challenge. “HB 1804 is a model bill for immigration enforcement through attrition,” he says. “It’s a model, not just for OKLAHOMA, but for other states.”

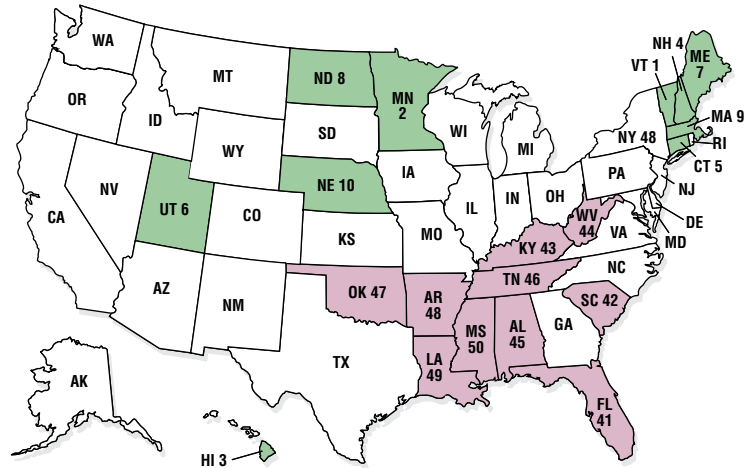
A similar scenario is playing out in ARIZONA, where last week a federal court took up the constitutionality of HB 2779. Under that measure, which Gov. Janet Napolitano (D) signed into law on July 2 despite stating strong misgivings, employers who do knowingly hire illegal workers can lose their business license. Business groups have challenged the law because they say it unconstitutionally calls for the state to enforce employment law, which is a federal responsibility. But attorney Farrell Quinlan, who represents a coalition of business groups opposing the law,

**“If it passes federal muster here, it’ll be coming to a state legislature near you.”**

“If it passes federal muster here, it’ll be coming to a state legislature near you,” Quinlan says.

But that could happen regardless of what the court rules in ARIZONA. There are hundreds of grass roots immigration organizations across the country, many of

## Bird’s eye view



Source: United Health Foundation/American Public Health Association/Partnership for Prevention, USA Today

Green Top 10 healthiest states Pink Bottom 10 healthiest states

### Ranking the nation’s healthiest states



The health of the nation declined slightly in the last year, according to a new report measuring the overall healthiness of each state from United Health Foundation (UHF), a MINNESOTA-based non-profit foundation that works to improve public health. The report grades each state on key wellness issues like rates of cancer deaths, poverty levels and numbers of uninsured people, as well as personal behaviors like smoking and violent crime. Based on those criteria, the study deems VERMONT the healthiest state in the nation. MINNESOTA was a close runner-up after being ranked in the top spot for the last four years, followed by HAWAII and NEW HAMPSHIRE. In contrast, MISSISSIPPI’s high obesity rates and large numbers of children living in poverty earned it the bottom ranking as the unhealthiest state in the nation, followed by LOUISIANA and ARKANSAS respectively.

says there is also a real fear among business interests that should the courts disagree, other states will follow suit with similar measures of their own.

whom are pushing lawmakers to enact the kind of restrictions and penalties found in the OKLAHOMA and ARIZONA laws. Many are led by people like Carol Helms, who founded Immigration Reform for OKLAHOMA Now, which worked to support HB 1804. Helms says she has personally advised like-minded citizens groups in KANSAS, NEBRASKA, MONTANA, CALIFORNIA, ALABAMA and NEW JERSEY, as well as FLORIDA's congressional delegation, on developing similar measures in their state. Others thought to be considering such bills include SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA, UTAH, MISSOURI, TENNESSEE and ARKASAS.

Immigration proponents like Migration Policy Institute President Demetrios Papademetriou blame Congress's failure to approve substantial immigration reform this spring for the groundswell of support for measures like those in OKLAHOMA and ARIZONA.

"When the federal government basically abandoned comprehensive immigration reform, it created an opening for activists in states and localities to see how they

**"When the federal government basically abandoned comprehensive immigration reform, it created an opening for activists in states and localities to see how they might address it."**

might address it," Papademetriou says. But Papademetriou also notes that the movement is growing because there is strong public support for it.

"This is not just a bunch of activists that are doing this," he says. "It does represent the broader opinions of the populous. The activists are literally tapping into something broader."

But even in OKLAHOMA, not everyone agrees with the harsher new

rules. Rep. Shane Jett, a Republican, says he is planning to introduce legislation next session to allow the state to "redeem itself" by addressing what he calls the "unintended consequences" of HB 1804. Jett does not yet have the specifics of that proposal, but says he wants to see a system similar to a guest worker program, where each illegal immigrant would be assigned an identification number to ensure they are paying the proper taxes. That money would then be captured entirely by the state to pay for any public services the illegal immigrant population is using.

Jett says he is pushing these changes because HB 1804 does not account for the potentially devastating impact forcing thousands of workers out of state could have on the Sooner State workforce. "No one set out to injure OKLAHOMA's economy, but that is what will happen," he says.

Hector Chichoni, a FLORIDA-based immigration and employment attorney, says a plethora of states imposing Draconian new laws could also create chaos in many states' workforces. That, he says, would likely prompt Congress to finally

enact federal immigration policy reform. “I think Congress will hurry up and enact some law to stop pandemonium in other states,” he says.

A decision on the ARIZONA statute is expected in December. But another hot button immigration issue was resolved last week when NEW YORK Gov. Eliot Spitzer (D) decided to abandon his plans to allow undocumented residents to obtain driver’s licenses. Spitzer’s proposal had sparked a national debate over whether issuing licenses to illegal immigrants would make the state more secure or improperly extend a privilege to them that should be reserved for legal residents. The controversial proposal even sucked in a host of Democratic presidential candidates during a recent debate after front-runner Hillary Clinton offered a tortured and confusing answer to the question of whether she supported Spitzer’s plan. Pilloried by other candidates and the media for seeming to waffle on the matter, Clinton later came out strongly against the plan.

Empire State voters were not quite as circumspect in their viewpoint, as polls showed an overwhelming number of people strongly opposed Spitzer’s proposal. Faced with such a maelstrom of opposition from seemingly all sides — his own state Legislature was also poised to cut off funds to pay for the program — Spitzer acknowledged last week that his plan had no real chance to survive. It was a brutal defeat for Spitzer, who lamented that he was “not willing to fight to the bitter end on something that will not ultimately be implemented.”

Although that concession has finished the issue in NEW YORK for the foreseeable future, it appears to have sparked new action from federal lawmakers. U.S. Sen. John Barasso, a WYOMING Republican, introduced legislation in Congress last week that would withhold 10 percent of federal highway funds from any state that allowed illegals to obtain licenses. Several federal lawmakers immediately announced their support for the legislation.

None of which has discouraged OREGON Gov. Ted Kulongoski (D), who said after Spitzer waved the white flag that he still supports giving illegal immigrants driver’s licenses. But even the governor’s fellow Democrats were seemingly less

## The week in session

**States in Regular Session:** DC, MA, MI, PA, US, WI

**States in Skeleton Session:** OH

**States in Perfunctory Session:** IL  
Special Sessions “a”-“p”

**States in Veto Session:** IL

**States in Special Session:** MD “a”, PA “a”

**States in Recess:** MI, NH, NJ, NY

**Special Sessions in Recess:** CA “a”, CA “b”, DE “a”

**States Currently Prefiling or Drafting for 2008:** AL, AZ, CO, DE, FL, IA, KS, KY, ME, NH, OK

**States in Special Session Projected to Adjourn:** AK “a”

**States Adjourned in 2007:** AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, ME, MN, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WV, WY

**State Special Sessions Adjourned in 2007:** AK “a”, AL “a”, CT “a”, CT “b”, FL “a”, FL “b”, FL “c”, FL “d”, HI “a”, HI “b”, KY “a”, KY “b”, MN “a”, MO “a”, MS “a”, MT “a”, MT “b”, NC “a”, NM “a”, NV “a”, UT “a”, WI “a”, WI “b”, WV “a”, WV “b”

Letters indicate special/extraordinary sessions

— Compiled By JAMES ROSS  
(session information current as of 11/16/2007)  
Source: State Net database



than enthused by Kulongoski’s position. “You could count on one hand the number of supporters there are for this in the Legislature — if there are even that many,” said Democrat Rick Metsger, chairman of the OREGON Senate Transportation Committee. (NEW YORK TIMES, OKLAHOMAN [OKLAHOMA CITY], CORVALLIS GAZETTE-TIMES, CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE, WASHINGTON POST, ARIZONA REPUBLIC [PHOENIX])

*\* For more information on this issue see “States taking illegal immigration battle to employers” at [http://www.statenet.com/capitol\\_journal/06-18-2007/html](http://www.statenet.com/capitol_journal/06-18-2007/html)*

*— Compiled by RICH EHISEN*

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# Budget & taxes

**S TATES PUSHING GREEN BUILDING:** “Green design” — the environmentally friendly variety — is in.

Even in Las Vegas, where the focus has tended to be on an entirely different kind of green.

The \$4.8 billion Echelon hotel-casino complex, an 87-acre development scheduled for completion in 2010, will boast 5,000 rooms and suites, 30 restaurants and entertainment venues, and over 140,000 square feet of casino space. The site will also incorporate design features aimed at maximizing the use of natural light, conserving water and deflecting heat.

One of the main reasons for that is the law NEVADA enacted in 2005 granting a substantial property-tax break to developers who meet certain environmentally responsible design criteria, known as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

NEVADA is just one of 26 states that now have some sort of green-building laws, up from 19 a year ago, according to Jason Hartke, director of advocacy for the U.S. Green Building Council, which developed the LEED standards — now the most widely accepted green-design benchmark — in 2000.

Most of the state laws take a “lead by example” approach, setting high standards for government buildings but not requiring private developers to meet them.

That was the tack FLORIDA Gov. Charlie Crist (R) took in July, when he signed an executive order mandating that all new state buildings meet LEED standards. Dean Izzo of the Department of Management Services said the Sunshine State’s buildings were already considered “high performance,” but the new law “takes us to the next level.” The first buildings that will be constructed using the new standards — three Department of Revenue structures in Tallahassee — will have ventilation

systems that can be adjusted at individual workspaces and permeable parking lots that reduce heat build up.

COLORADO took a broader approach, enacting a bill in April requiring new building construction and renovation projects that receive 25 percent or more of their funding from the state to meet LEED or other high-performance building standards.

Rod Vanderwall of the Office of the State Architect, said the Centennial State already followed the 2006 International State Energy Conservation Code, but that under the new law, “We’ll pay more attention to lighting quality, interaction with heating and cooling systems, and insulation,” among other things. He added that the new standards might add to construction costs, but the energy savings would more than compensate.

Other states have gone further still. Along with NEVADA, NEW MEXICO has established tax incentives for private developers who meet LEED standards. And in August, ILLINOIS became the first state to offer economic incentives for LEED-

compliant neighborhood development, agreeing to cover up to 1.5 percent of the total development costs for three neighborhoods per year.

There are no state laws actually mandating green building, according to Steve Dunn, a senior associate at the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project. But he said that could change, with NEW MEXICO currently working on a statewide green-building code.

There is opposition to such mandates, however. Todd Myers of the Washington, D.C.-based Competitive Enterprise Institute, said he’s okay with developers adopting green standards voluntarily, but he doesn’t believe government should impose them for either public or private construction.

Myers contends that LEED standards are not always as energy-efficient as they’re cracked up to be. He cites his own research of school systems in WASHINGTON state that found, for instance, that the large windows the standards call for to reduce lighting costs, also increase heating and cooling costs.

He says decisions about energy savings should be left to local facility managers who know the particulars of their buildings and climates. “Having somebody come in from the outside and say here’s how you’re going to do it from now on doesn’t take advantage of the expertise they have in their local area,” he said.

But the USGBC’s Hartke says the LEED system is flexible and has a “proven track record.” He said studies show that there’s typically a 2 percent increase in

## Upcoming elections

11/15/2007 - 12/06/2007

11/15/2007

**Tennessee Special Election**  
Senate District 10

11/17/2007

**Louisiana General Election**

House (All)

Senate (All)

Constitutional Officers: Attorney General,  
Commissioner of Agriculture and  
Forestry

11/20/2007

**Florida Special Election**

House District 101

11/27/2007

**Rhode Island Special Election**

House District 22 (former Rep. Peter  
Ginaitt)

12/04/2007

**South Carolina Special Election**

House District 94



building costs, which is paid back within 14 months. “After that, you’re talking about a return on investment,” he said. (STATELINE.ORG)

**CRIST SIGNS INDIAN GAMING DEAL:** FLORIDA Gov. Charlie Crist (R) signed a compact with the Seminole Tribe last week that will provide at least \$100 million a year in revenue to the state — if it holds up.

The deal grants the tribe exclusive rights to add Vegas-style slot machines and table games like blackjack and baccarat to its seven casinos. In return, the tribe must pay \$100 million to the state for the first two years of expanded operations and \$150 million or more — depending on revenues — by the third year.

“This is a historic day for FLORIDA,” Crist said at a signing ceremony in his office last Wednesday. Mitchell Cypress, chief of the Seminoles’ tribal council, more or less agreed, saying it was “a good day for everybody.”

**“The Legislature will sue, and we will win.”**

Lawmakers weren’t as enthusiastic about the deal. House Speaker Marco Rubio (R) and Senate President Ken Pruitt (R), who’d previously demanded that the compact be approved by the Legislature, said they were reviewing their legal options. Others were less circumspect. “The Legislature will sue, and we will win,” said Senate Democratic Leader Steve Geller. (ORLANDO SENTINEL)

**BUDGETS IN BRIEF: CALIFORNIA’s** top budget analyst, Elizabeth Hill, released a report last week projecting a \$9.8 billion hole in next year’s budget, \$3.8 billion more than the Schwarzenegger administration had previously indicated. Hill said the deficit has grown because government expenses are increasing faster than revenues in an economy weakened by the slumping real estate market (SACRAMENTO BEE). • State economists in **FLORIDA** downgraded their tax revenue projection for the next two years another \$2.5 billion last week. The revised forecast means that despite lawmakers making \$1 billion in cuts during a special session just weeks ago, the state will still end the fiscal year on June 30 \$1 billion short (ORLANDO SENTINEL). • **ILLINOIS** Legislature’s Joint Committee on Administrative Rules voted 9-2 to suspend Gov. Rod Blagojevich’s (D) emergency rule expanding the state’s health-care rolls by 147,000 people. The bipartisan panel questioned the pressing need to increase health-care spending when the state is already struggling to meet its financial obligation to doctors who treat the poor. Earlier this year, lawmakers rejected a larger, near-universal health-care program proposed by Blagojevich that he wanted to fund with a controversial business tax (STATE JOURNAL [SPRINGFIELD]). • The **MARYLAND** House of Delegates passed two tax bills in special session last week that would generate \$1.4 billion a year to close a budget shortfall and provide funding for transportation and health care. But the House still had to reconcile its legislation with that passed by the Senate the



week before (WASHINGTON POST). • The **ALASKA** Senate voted to raise the oil tax rate from 22.5 percent to 25 percent of net profits last week. Differences still remain between the Senate bill and one passed by the House a few days earlier (KTUU [ANCHORAGE], ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS). • **PENNSYLVANIA**'s first six slot-machine parlors took in over \$10 billion in their initial year of operation — averaging out to about \$830 per resident. The nearly \$900 million in profits generated by that business was split between the casinos and the state, which intends to direct its share into tax cuts, civic-development projects, aid to local governments and the horse-racing industry (PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER). • Last week, **NEW JERSEY** Gov. Jon Corzine (D) unveiled his long-awaited plan to cut the state's 32-billion debt in half by leasing the state's toll roads to a public benefit corporation (STAR-LEDGER [NEWARK]).

## Upcoming stories

Here are some of the topics you will see covered in upcoming issues of the State Net Capitol Journal:

- **Sanctuary cities**
- **Retail health clinics**
- **Family leave**

— Compiled by *KOREY CLARK*

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# Politics & leadership

**G**OP AT DEMS MERCY ON OR PRES BALLOT: OREGON  
 Republicans are in a bit of a pickle. They've scheduled their presidential nominating convention so late in the summer next year — Sept. 1-4, in Minneapolis-St. Paul — that it will bump right up against the deadline, under OREGON law, for the parties to officially file the names of their presidential and vice presidential nominees: Sept. 4.

It won't be a problem as long as everything goes smoothly. But Republicans don't want to take that chance. And to give themselves more leeway, they want to change

**“I just don't see how you can play politics with denying the other major party's candidate a place on the ballot.”**

the state filing deadline. To do that, however, they need the support of the Democrats who control the Legislature.

peacefully and expeditiously” to pass legislation in February, said House Majority Leader Dave Hunt (D). He also said the Dems weren't planning to extract any concessions from the Republicans in return for the favor.

And Amy Langdon, executive director of the Oregon Republican Party, said she didn't expect that to change. “I just don't see how you can play politics with denying





Reid denied any collusion, and added that the election, which saw Democrats take control of the state Senate and make significant gains in the House, confirmed that voters support Kaine’s approach. “People are tired of ideology. We want common-sense approaches to issues,” Reid said. “Governor Kaine took a common-sense approach. We have a budget shortfall. This program has not shown to be effective in any way.” (WASHINGTON POST)

**“People are tired of ideology. We want common-sense approaches to issues.”**

**CO GOP VOWS FIGHT OVER BARGAINING ORDER:** Legislative Republicans in COLORADO are vowing to fight an executive order (EO D02807) from Gov. Bill Ritter (D) that authorizes state government managers and workers to enter into employee partnerships, essentially giving them the power to collectively bargaining over issues like workplace safety, wages and health care. Republicans say the order is “an abuse of power,” contending that the matter should have been decided by the Legislature, not Ritter. Republican leaders have already announced two bills — one to repeal Ritter’s

**“This governor has an obvious affinity for unilateral action. Somewhere, Dick Cheney is smiling.”**

order and another to prevent state workers from striking. “This governor has an obvious affinity for unilateral action. Somewhere, Dick Cheney is smiling,” said Sen. Josh Penry (R). Even former Gov. Bill Owens got into the act, saying

the issue was too controversial to have not been run past lawmakers first.

Democrats dismissed the criticism, noting that Ritter’s order specifically does not grant state workers authority to strike or engage in binding arbitration. “To call this a major policy initiative is a hell of a stretch,” said Rep. Paul Weissmann (D). COLORADO State University political scientist John Straayer also believes the furor will be short-lived. “This is not sweeping unionization at all,” he said. “They can’t strike. They can’t force nonunion members to pay. There is no binding arbitration. It just strikes me as kind of a middle-of-the-road act on the governor’s part.” (DENVER POST)

**EXECUTIVE ORDERS:** IOWA Gov. Chet Culver (D) issues EO 7, which creates a Youth Race and Detention Task Force. The 30-40 member group will be tasked with coming up with suggestions for reducing the number of minority youth in Hawkeye State juvenile detention centers (STATE NET). • IDAHO Gov. Butch Otter (R) issues EO 22, which creates the “Office of Energy Resources” within the governor’s office. The agency will be responsible for advising the governor and all other state officials on the state’s energy requirements, supply, transmission, management, conservation and efficiency efforts (STATE NET). • CALIFORNIA Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) issues EO 14, which enacts a two-week moratorium on all fishing in San Francisco



Bay. Schwarzenegger's order came after a cargo ship crashed into the Bay Bridge, causing more than 58,000 gallons of oil to spill into the waters there. The move did not, however, delay the opening of the Golden State's winter crab season last Thursday in other coastal areas (STATE NET).

**GOVERNORS IN BRIEF:** Nine

Midwestern governors signed off on the Midwestern Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord last week, an agreement with the premier of the Canadian province of Manitoba to reduce carbon emissions and set up a trading system to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets. Not to be outdone, beginning this week three Western governors — Arnold

Schwarzenegger of **CALIFORNIA** and Jon Huntsman Jr. of **UTAH**, both Republicans, and Democrat Brian Schweitzer of **MONTANA** — will appear in a nationwide television advertising campaign to generate public and political support for climate change legislation now being debated in the U.S. Senate (NEW YORK TIMES). • **UTAH** Gov. Jon Huntsman (R) said last week that his top three legislative priorities for 2008 are raising teacher pay 6 percent to 8 percent a year over the next several years, reducing the number of Utahans who do not have health insurance and improving the Beehive State's air quality (SALT LAKE TRIBUNE). • Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said Friday that he is considering making a bid for governor of **TENNESSEE** in 2010. Frist, who is currently a full-time professor at Princeton, is one of many people considering making the run. Among Democrats, U.S. Rep. Lincoln Davis (D) has already said he will make a bid, while Kim McMillan, a former state House Majority Leader and most recently an aide to current Gov. Phil Bredesen (D) is said to be interested. Additional Republicans said to be mulling it over include U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp (R) and U.S. Sen. Bob Corker (R) (CHATTANOOGA TIMES FREE PRESS). • **NORTH DAKOTA** Gov. John Hoeven (R) formally announced his decision to seek a third term (FORUM [FARGO]). • **WASHINGTON** Gov. Christine Gregoire (D) said last week that she has not given up hope of keeping the NBA's Seattle Supersonics from moving to Oklahoma City. Gregoire took exception to NBA Commissioner David Stern's assertion that the region lacked the political will to work out a deal for keeping the team in the Emerald City. "David Stern should keep his powder dry," Gregoire said (SEATTLE POST INTELLIGENCER).

## In the hopper

At any given time, State Net tracks tens of thousands of bills in all 50 states, the US Congress and the District of Columbia. Here's a snapshot of what's in the legislative works:

**Number of prefiles last week:** 62

**Number of Intros last week:** 555

**Number of bills enacted/adopted last week:** 103

**Number of prefiles to date:** 41,937

**Number of Intros to date:** 164,773

**Number of enacted/adopted overall to date:** 41,610

— Compiled By JAMES ROSS  
(measures current as of 11/15/2007)  
Source: State Net database







must refer a patient to “the nearest” or “a nearby” source for the drug. State officials are considering an appeal (SEATTLE TIMES). • The **COLORADO** Supreme Court gives its approval to supporters of a ballot initiative seeking to amend the state constitution in 2008 to define personhood as a fertilized egg. Opponents of the measure claimed it was misleading, but the court unanimously decided that the proposal was both clear and did not violate the state’s single subject mandate for ballot questions (DENVER POST).

• **MASSACHUSETTS** Gov. Deval Patrick (D) signs legislation that establishes a 35-foot buffer zone between abortion clinic entrances and anti-abortion protesters (BOSTON GLOBE).

### In case you missed it

On Nov. 6, voters in seven states weighed in on a total of 35 statewide propositions and referendums, approving 28 and rejecting only seven. But those seven rejections came on some of the most high profile and controversial issues under consideration. In our Nov. 12 issue, we wrapped up how all the state ballot measures finished.

In case you missed it, you can the article can be found on our Web site at [http://www.statenet.com/capitol\\_journal/11-12-2007/html](http://www.statenet.com/capitol_journal/11-12-2007/html).

— *Compiled by RICH EHISEN*

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# Once around the statehouse lightly

**WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS:** They’d tried water rationing. They’d filed lawsuits. They’d hit up President Bush. They’d even tried a rain dance, all to no avail. So, the Associated Press reports, last week **GEORGIA** Gov. Sonny Perdue took the next logical step for dealing with the Southeast’s ongoing drought: he held a prayer meeting on the steps of the Capitol to ask God for, you know, a little help down here. But not everyone thought Perdue’s call to the Almighty was such a good idea. The Atlanta Freethought Society, for one, thought the effort was all wet, contending that Perdue was seriously crossing the line that separates church and state. They showed up to protest the vigil. But Perdue had the last laugh as the heavens opened up the following day, dropping an inch of rain on the parched northern part of the state. The gov said he considered the downpour an “affirmation,” but quickly struck a humble note, saying “Certainly, we’re not gloating about it.” Uh huh.

**NO BUBBLE BOY IS HE:** It has been four years since former **CALIFORNIA** Gov. Gray Davis was booted out of office by voters angry over, well, just about everything. Given that, you probably couldn’t blame Davis — only the second governor in U.S. history to be recalled from office — if he never set foot in Sacramento again. But Davis, who came to the capital city last week to speak to the Sacramento Press Club, seems to be over any hard feelings he may have had from



seeing Arnold Schwarzenegger terminate his political career. He was glib throughout, generally being far more personable than the man often noted for being “charm free” during his days in office. Davis also resisted badmouthing Schwarzenegger, choosing instead to laud the Governor for his efforts on the environment. Davis did allow himself one moment of pique, however. When asked how his life is different now, Davis replied, “When I make a speech now and people don’t like it, that’s their problem. I’m no longer in the bubble.”

**DOG(S) BITE MAN?** Not yet, but that may be how it soon feels to CALIFORNIA Assemblyman Lloyd Levine, who caused a furor last year when he introduced a measure to require pet owners to spay or neuter their animals. Animal lovers statewide went ape over the proposal, swamping the Capitol, hounds in tow, to lobby against it. Levine’s bill cleared the Assembly but croaked in the Senate, forcing him to put the measure to sleep for a while. Now, as the *Capitol Weekly* reports, a loose coalition of pet people are trying to get seven separate initiatives on the ballot, with the net effect of changing the state constitution to bar laws such as Levine is proposing. The Assemblyman is nonplussed, saying he plans to re-introduce his bill anyway.

**THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS, FREE SPEECH AND...TO DRY?**

Yes, to dry. As in your clothes. On a clothesline, not an electric dryer. As NEW HAMPSHIRE Public Radio reports, there is an entire movement afoot these days to allow folks to go low-tech with their laundry. An advocacy group called Project Laundry List — seriously — is pushing lawmakers in numerous states to bar homeowners’ associations from forcing residents to use dryers rather than good old sunshine and a warm breeze. While some might question whether these folks have gone all Luddite on us, they say nothing is further from the truth. Clotheslines, they say, are just the environmentally sound thing to do. But homeowners groups don’t like the idea, complaining that clotheslines are an aesthetic blight and lower their home values. According to the State Net database, at least four states have pending bills on the matter. Hmmmm...just when we thought it couldn’t get any harder to get the kids to do the laundry.

— By RICH EHISEN



**Editor:** Rich Ehisen — capj@statenet.com

**Associate Editor:** Korey Clark — capj@statenet.com

**Editorial Advisor:** Lou Cannon

**Correspondents:** Richard Cox (CA), Steve Karas (CA), Bruce McKeeman (CA), Jeff Kinnison (CA), Chelsea Wolfe (CA), Linda Mendenhall (IL), Lauren King (MA) and Ben Livingood (PA)

**Graphic Design:** Vanessa Perez

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