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50 STATES 1 SOLUTION

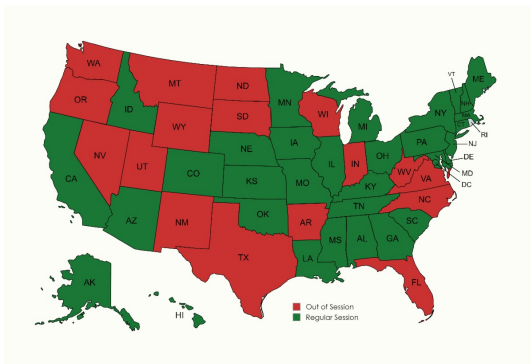
Legislative Weekly Update

March 27, 2024

State Legislative Session Map

- 33 States in Regular Session
- 17 States Out of Session

*Idaho was scheduled to go out on March 22; their session is likely to continue thru the end of this week.



March Madness in Full Swing

State Legislative Round-Up

With March Madness in full swing, now is a great time to catch up on what states allow sports gambling, what states have pending legislation and how states are spending the taxed winnings. Check out NCSL's comprehensive report and see what your state is doing. [Learn more here.](#)

Alabama – A comprehensive lottery and gambling package is still up in the air due to significantly different versions passed out of the Alabama House and Senate. The House version includes a state lottery, sports betting and casinos with table games. The Senate passed a watered-down version which includes a state lottery and electronic wagering machines at a few locations. A final package will be put on a special ballot for voters to decide later this year. Lawmakers in the Senate are expected to revisit the legislation after they return from spring break next week. [Learn more here.](#)

Legislative Round-Up (cont.)

Connecticut – Here's something you don't see very often. The General Assembly's Insurance and Real Estate committee failed to pass any legislation prior to the committee's deadline. How did it happen and what's the fate of insurance reform. [Learn more here.](#)

Georgia – On Tuesday, the Georgia Senate passed a \$36.1 billion state budget for FY25 that includes raises for state workers and educators. The budget also increased funds for law enforcement, mental health and education

Nebraska – The Revenue Committee passed legislation on a significant property tax relief plan which would lower property taxes but raise the state's sales tax and eliminate a few sales tax exemptions. School property taxes would drop by more than 45% statewide while state sales taxes could go up as much as 1 cent under a tax plan advanced Thursday by the Legislature's Revenue Committee. Supporters argue the plan would distribute nearly \$700 million of sales tax revenue to school districts to drive down residents' property taxes. Critics including the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and other business interests are opposed to the shift in taxes with an increase in

programs. The House passed their version of the budget earlier this month. Next step is for a joint legislative conference committee to work out the differences between the two budgets prior to session coming to an end on Thursday. [Learn more here.](#)

Maine – Lawmakers in Maine are cracking down on the practice of “concept bills” which allows a legislator to file a bill with a vague title and a summary that doesn’t do much to explain what the bill is about. “Lawmakers are increasingly using placeholder bills with vague titles for significant pieces of legislation presented late in the process – a practice that reduces transparency and erodes trust in the government at a time when political rhetoric is becoming more heated and violent. Some critics say lawmakers use the process to withhold information and blindsides opponents, although concept drafts also can be used simply to allow time to draft complex legislation.” [Learn more here.](#)

the state’s sales tax. [Learn more here.](#)

New Hampshire – Assisted suicide is one step close to legalization after the NH House passed HB1283 which would allow a terminally ill adult patient of sound mind, with fewer than six months to live, to be prescribed a lethal cocktail of drugs, which they would self-administer to commit suicide. [Learn more here.](#)

Tennessee – Last week, Governor Bill Lee signed into law the bipartisan supported “**Ensuring Likeness Voice and Image Security (ELVIS) Act**”, establishing strong protections for every person’s unique voice and likeness against unauthorized artificial intelligence (AI) deepfakes and voice clones. Tennessee is the first state in the nation to now consider vocal likeness a property right, rather than a right of publicity. [Learn more here.](#)

Wyoming – Over the weekend, Governor Mark Gordon signed the two-year state budget which will go into effect on July 1. The Wyoming Freedom Caucus, made up of mostly conservative House members, is demanding a special session be held to address vetoes on bills that would restrict abortion, repeal gun free zones and remove DEI funding for UW. [Learn more here.](#)



Focus on Governing: Louisiana

Fascinating conversations are taking place in Louisiana right now as it relates to the future of the state constitution. Lawmakers have agreed for years that revisions need to be made to shorten the charter that was adopted in 1974 and has been amended over 200 times. Where things get more difficult is finding consensus on what items might get changed so that the state can hold a statewide convention to rewrite the document.

Changing the state constitution requires a two-thirds vote in both chambers of the Legislature and approval from voters in a statewide election. Governor Jeff Landry and legislative



Resourceful Resources

Cool Jobs

- Director, State Government Affairs, National Confectioners Association
- Public Policy Manager State, TikTok
- Director, State Government Affairs, Entertainment Software Association
- White House Internship, Fall 2024 in Washington D.C.
- Senior Director of Marketing, Communications, and Outreach,

leaders are hoping to find the consensus needed by taking items from the constitution and moving them into "statute" thus ensuring state law and protections remain in place for the time being. Some lawmakers cite the 200+ amendments as examples of policies that should be removed from the constitution and enshrined in law via statute.

Changing a statute only requires a simple-majority vote from the state House and Senate. This would allow lawmakers to change or repeal those items in the future more easily - without needing a vote of the people, which is how they change them now. A change that could come in handy when the Governor and the legislature need to make tough decisions about funding cuts during next year's session when they will have to address a \$650 million budget deficit. Lawmakers could use the re-write to move some areas of the state budget that are currently protected by the constitution into statutes – thus giving themselves more options for funding cuts.

A few things need to happen before the ultimate decision is left to the voters. First, the legislature must secure a two-thirds majority vote to hold a statewide constitutional convention to rewrite the document. Rep. Beau Beaulieu, R-New Iberia, is drafting the legislation which must 1) include the rules for how the convention will operate and 2) be filed by an April 2 deadline. There are only a few days left for lawmakers to decide on the rules of the road for the convention.

Rep. Beaulieu has indicated he would like the convention to take place before session ends in early June. The final decision on the matter would rest with voters on the November 5 ballot.

Will 2024 finally be the year state leaders find enough common ground to approve a rewrite?
[Learn more here.](#)

Galápagos Conservancy

- Manager, Corporate Communications, Washington Commanders
- Manager, State Government Relations, Stubhub
- Director, State and Local, External Affairs, Siemens
- Director, Public Policy, Southern and Southeastern U.S., Meta
- Deputy Director, Colorado Wildlife Federation

News We Are Reading

- *As Electric Vehicle Shoppers Hesitate, Hybrid Sales Surge*
- *US Homebuyers Expecting \$10,000 Savings Face Tough Reality*
- *Senator, Meet Your New Fierce Lobbyist: Your Own TikTok-Watching Teen*
- *Has Biden, Trump skepticism opened Wisconsin to third party push?*
- *It took 30 years, but world's largest artificial reef built near San Diego nuclear power plant is finally thriving*

Political Industry Events

March 27-28

Republican Lieutenant Governors Assoc.
Spring Meeting in Amelia Island, FL

April 1

Washington Nationals, Opening Day at National Park



April 6-8

National School Boards Association, Annual
Conference in New Orleans, LA

April 16-18

AAPC Pollie Awards Conference in
Washington, DC

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50 to 1 LLC | 11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 800, Fairfax, VA 22030

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