

## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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This week, in addition to the regularly-scheduled newsletter, we have prepared a supplemental edition of *Studies in the News*, including recent reports that were not featured in the weekly newsletter. This supplemental edition is available at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/index.html>.

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CA: Relatively low percentage of state employees

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

Helping children of incarcerated parents

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***Improving Budget Analysis of State Criminal Justice Reforms: A Strategy for Better Outcomes and Saving Money.* By Michael Leachman, et al. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Jan. 2012. 28 p.**

<http://www.cbpp.org/files/1-11-12sfp.pdf>

An increasing number of state legislatures are considering public safety reforms that also save the state money. However, many state legislatures have rejected programs that both increase public safety and reduce costs because legislators were not given rigorous assessments of the cost savings that a program would produce. By including and improving the estimates of fiscal impacts programs would have, known as "fiscal notes," states can help legislators improve decision making. This report lays out best practices for writing fiscal notes for criminal justice legislation.

**Oregon Commission on Public Safety, Report to the Governor: December 2011. Oregon Commission on Public Safety. Dec. 2011. 20 p.**

[http://www.ocjc.state.or.us/CJC/docs/CPS\\_report\\_to\\_Governor\\_12\\_30\\_11.pdf](http://www.ocjc.state.or.us/CJC/docs/CPS_report_to_Governor_12_30_11.pdf)

The state commission examined Oregon's criminal justice system to identify cost savings. It concluded that continued spending on prison construction to meet the growing incarceration needs would lead necessary cuts in other parts of the state budget. Instead of building more prisons, the Commission urged the Governor to re-evaluate sentencing laws and target recidivism reduction programs.

## **CULTURE & SOCIETY**

***In Brief: Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC: Church Employment Disputes and the "Ministerial Exception."***  
By Ira C. Lupu, et al. The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. Jan. 11, 2012.

Brief: <http://www.pewforum.org/Church-State-Law/The-Supreme-Court-Takes-Up-Church-Employment-Disputes-and-the-%E2%80%9CMinisterial-Exception%E2%80%9D.aspx>

Supreme Court Syllabus: <http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/11pdf/10-553.pdf>

"The Supreme Court issued a ruling in a significant church employment dispute, giving religious organizations wide latitude in hiring and firing clergy and other employees who perform religious duties. In its unanimous decision, the high court explicitly recognized a legal doctrine known as the 'ministerial exception.' Lower courts have used the doctrine to exempt religious organizations from anti-discrimination laws and other statutes that regulate how employers treat their workers, but this is the first time that the Supreme Court has ruled on the constitutionality of the doctrine."

## **DEMOGRAPHY**

***Rising Share of Americans See Conflict Between Rich and Poor.*** Pew Social and Demographic Trends. Jan. 11, 2012. 13 p.

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2012/01/Rich-vs-Poor.pdf>

"[A]bout two-thirds of the public (66%) believes there are "very strong" or "strong" conflicts between the rich and the poor—an increase of 19 percentage points since 2009. Not only have perceptions of class conflict grown more prevalent; so, too, has the belief that these disputes are intense.... As a result, in the public's evaluations of divisions within American society, conflicts between rich and poor now rank ahead of three other potential sources of group tension—between immigrants and the native born; between blacks and whites; and between young and old."

## **ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT**

***The Competitiveness and Innovative Capacity of the United States.*** United States Department of Commerce. Jan. 2012. 160 p.

[http://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2012/january/competes\\_010511\\_0.pdf](http://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2012/january/competes_010511_0.pdf)

"The report serves as a call to arms, highlighting bipartisan priorities to sustain and promote American innovation and economic competitiveness.... Mandated as part of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, which was signed into law by President Obama in January last year, the report addresses a diverse range of topics and policy options, including: tax policy; the general business climate in the U.S.; barriers to setting up new firms; trade policy, including export promotion; the effectiveness of federal research and development policy; intellectual property regimes in the U.S. and abroad; the health of the manufacturing sector; and science and technology education."

***Leveraging State Energy Funds for Economic Development.*** By Lewis M. Milford, et al. The Brookings Institution. State and Metropolitan Innovation No. 9. Jan. 2012. 16 p.  
[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2012/0111\\_states\\_energy\\_funds/0111\\_states\\_energy\\_funds.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2012/0111_states_energy_funds/0111_states_energy_funds.pdf)

“State clean energy funds (CEFs) have emerged as effective tools that states can use to accelerate the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. These clean energy funds, which exist in over 20 states, generate about \$500 million per year in dedicated support from utility surcharges and other sources, making them significant public investors in thousands of clean energy projects. However, state clean energy funds’ emphasis on a project finance model – which directly promotes clean energy project installation by providing production incentives and grants/rebates – is by itself not enough to build a statewide clean energy industry.” This report provides recommendations on how these CEFs can “become true economic development engines.

## EDUCATION

***Why Policy Makers Should Care About Children’s Savings.*** By William Elliott III. New America Foundation. Jan. 2012. 19 p.  
[http://assets.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/Elliott\\_I\\_final1.4.12.pdf](http://assets.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/Elliott_I_final1.4.12.pdf)

“Given the well-documented disparities in college attendance and completion rates by socio-economic class, and the growing role that education plays in employment and economic mobility, a pressing question for the 21st century is, ‘How do we create greater access to college and higher completion rates for more of America’s children?’ Part of the answer focuses on the short-term problem of paying for college.” State-sponsored child savings accounts (CSA) may be one solution to increasing student aid without requiring students to take on debt. The report presents evidence of state-sponsored CSAs as effective models for education funding.

## ENERGY

***Airspace in a Green Economy.*** By Troy Rule. University of Missouri Law School. UCLA Law Review, vol. 59, no. 2, 2011. 51p.  
<http://www.uclalawreview.org/pdf/59-2-1.pdf>

"The recent surge of interest in renewable energy and sustainable land use has made the airspace above land more valuable than ever before....Incorporating options or liability rules into laws regulating airspace is a useful way to promote wind and solar energy while still respecting landowners' existing airspace rights....Policymakers should weigh the likely impacts on both rival and non-rival airspace uses when deciding whether to modify airspace restrictions to encourage sustainability."

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***State and Local Government Employees: Where Does California Rank? 2010 Update.*** Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy. Jan. 2012. 4p.  
<http://ccsce.com/PDF/Numbers-Jan-2012-Where-Does-California-Rank-2010.pdf>.

“In 2010 California had the 5th lowest number of full-time equivalent state government employees relative to population among all states. California had 110 state employees for every 10,000 residents while Florida had the lowest ratio at 98 and Illinois was second with 102. The U.S. average was 142 state employees per 10,000 residents. California’s ratio of state government employees relative to population was 23% below the national average.... California is 20% below the national average in education employees relative to population despite the fact that California has an above-average percent of K-12

students in the state's population. Texas is 25% above the national average with 279 K-12 employees per 10,000 residents."

## HUMAN SERVICES

***When a Parent is Incarcerated: A Primer for Social Workers.* By Yali Lincroft. Annie E. Casey Foundation. Dec. 2011. 37 p.**

<http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Topics/Special%20Interest%20Areas/Children%20with%20Incarcerated%20Parents/WhenaParentisIncarceratedPrimer/WhenAParentIsIncarceratedPrimer.pdf>

"The number of children with an incarcerated parent has increased by almost 80% since 1991, and the number of children with a mother in prison has more than doubled during that time. The increase in maternal incarceration has important implications for child welfare agencies because most female inmates are mothers of minor children, and many are single parents....By engaging the incarcerated parents early and regularly throughout a child welfare case, from arrest to re-entry, the child welfare agency can improve permanency outcomes for children of incarcerated parents."

### **About *Studies in the News***

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