Current Articles & Research Resources, April 5

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In this weekly post, we feature helpful research tools and recent articles of interest to the legislative community.

- See how highway deck parks improve quality of life in cities. (Stateline, April 2, 2018)
- Read about federal legislation that would improve transparency related to federal unfunded mandates. (Council of State Governments, March 28, 2018)
- Examine racial disparities in incarceration rates. (Vera Institute of Justice, February 2018)
- Consider the results of a blind taste test of recycled water. (EurekAlert!, March 13, 2018)

Members of the Texas legislative community may request the articles below here or by calling 512-463-1252.

- "Reckless requests." By Lorelei Laird. *ABA Journal: The Lawyer's Magazine*, March 2018, pp. 16-18.
  Considers Washington State's and Florida's efforts to modify their public records laws, including provisions relating to attorney fees and excessive requests.
- "From opposition to preparation, Austin businesses gear up for sick-leave rules." By Daniel Salazar. *Austin Business Journal*, March 23, 2018, pp. 4-6.
  Reports on Austin's mandated sick leave ordinance and the impact on business owners' operations.
- "Is student debt big enough to hold back the economy?" By Dan Bauman. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 16, 2018, p. A25.
  Examines student debt in terms of what research shows as to its effect on small-business start-ups, borrowers purchasing homes, and which segments of the student population holds the most debt.
- "Autonomous vehicles: a driverless tragedy." *Economist*, March 24th-30th, 2018, pp. 73-74.
  Discusses the call for tighter rules and safety standards for the testing of autonomous vehicles, in the wake of the first known case of a pedestrian being killed by a self-driving car in Tempe, Arizona.
- "The geopolitics of energy: the new power superpowers." *Economist*, March 17th, 2018, pp. 1, 3-12.
  Reports on the geopolitical implications of the transition from fossil fuels to cleaner energy and pinpoints the winners and losers.
- "DACA continues for now, as does uncertainty for 'dreamers'." By Corey Mitchell. *Education Week*, March 7, p. 6.
  Discusses the United States Supreme Court's refusal to intervene in the legal battle over DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Addresses the effect President Trump's current immigration policy is having on DACA eligible

students' behavior and attendance.

- "States confront a range of hurdles to swift action on school security." By Daarel Burnette II. *Education Week*, March 7, 2018, pp. 8-9.
  Discusses school security strategies governors and state legislatures are considering in light of the recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida. Quotes Governor Greg Abbott.
- "The pain refugees: the forgotten victims of America's opioid crisis." By Brian Goldstone. *Harper's Magazine*, April 2018, pp. 53-61.
  Explores the complexities of the opioid addiction and overdose crisis, beyond the standard narrative of "doctors as dupes and patients as victims."
- "From payday loans to pawnshops: fringe banking, the unbanked, and health." By Jerzy Eisenberg-Guyot, et al. *Health Affairs*, March 2018, pp. 429-437.
  Examines the correlation between health and the use of fringe banking (including payday lenders and check cashers) and/or being unbanked (not having one's own bank account). Suggests expanding social welfare programs and labor protections to reduce the need for such stressful financial programs, thus reducing the stresses fringe services place on physical and mental health.
- "Parent mentoring program increases coverage rates for uninsured Latino children." By Glenn Flores, et al. *Health Affairs*, March 2018, pp. 403-412.
  Evaluates the effects of parent mentors on insuring Latino children eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program [CHIP] from 2011-15 in Dallas County, Texas.
- "Current developments in state and local tax: federal tax reform and other significant developments." By Mark L. Nachbar and Mary F. Bernard. *Journal of State Taxation*, Spring 2018, pp. 7-10, 38-39.
  Provides a brief overview of how the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* will impact state and local taxes. Explores other significant tax developments for individual states, including Texas.
  Related information at: http://caselaw.findlaw.com/tx-supreme-court/1884104.html
- "Against a weed industry." By Jonathan Caulkins. *National Review*, April 2, 2018, pp. 27-29.
  Argues against a for-profit industry for cannabis products at this time. Advocates restricting legal supply to nonprofit organizations and offers suggestions as to how this idea could be accomplished.
- "The graying of the welfare state." By William Voegeli. *National Review*, March 19, 2018, pp. 27-30.
  Examines how increased longevity and declining birthrates are increasing the fiscal, political, and social challenges related to "welfare state" programs such as Social Security and Medicare.
- "U.S. electric transportation: getting in gear." By Michael Britt and Tom Flaherty. *Public Utilities Fortnightly*, March 2018, pp. 32-39, 71.
  Argues that, by collaborating with the global original equipment manufacturer community, utilities can play a more active role in spreading public awareness and encouraging commercial adoption of electric transportation. Provides examples of what other countries have done.
- "Guns, code, and freedom." By Mark McDaniel. *Reason*, April 2018, pp. 48-55.
  Presents an interview with Cody Wilson, the Austin-based gun-rights activist, who "launched the age of the digital gun" with the publication of files showing how to make a 3D-printed pistol.

- "For end-of-life care, fresh challenges begin." By Joey Berlin. *Texas Medicine*, March 2018, pp. 24-29.
  Discusses SB11, 85th Legislature, 1st C.S., which establishes new requirements for in-hospital do-not-resuscitate orders.
- "Fostering change." By Sean Price. *Texas Medicine*, March 2018, pp. 32-35.
  Examines SB11, 85th Legislature, R.S., by focusing on the new requirement that foster children "be seen by a physician within three business days of coming into the care of Child Protective Services."
- "The young and the relentless." *Time*, April 2, 2018, pp. 24-31.
  Profiles student leaders of the new grassroots movement against gun violence that sprang up in response to the mass shooting at their school in Parkland, Florida. Discusses what students have achieved so far and their goals for the movement.

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