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From: ALEC Policy [news@ALEC.ORG]
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Subject: ALEC Policy Initiatives: 2011 Special Edition

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AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL
ALEC

Your state's upcoming legislative session presents an opportunity to return to the principles of Federalism and restore the proper balance between the federal and state government. ALEC model bills and resolutions provide limited-government, free-market solutions for your state's most pressing issues. Go directly to your desired policy issue:

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As always, please let us know if ALEC can provide you with legislative resources. If you need talking points on other pieces of ALEC model legislation, testimony, or contact with policy advisors, please contact Michael Bowman, Senior Director of Policy at mbowman@alec.org, or any of our Task Force Directors, and we would be more than happy to help connect you with timely resources.

ALEC Press Release: A Look into the 2011 Legislative Cycle

View [ALEC's latest press release](#), which includes a compilation of ALEC policy solutions for budget crises, education, health care, and other issues that are affected by and significantly affect budgetary spending in addition to improving the economy.

Business and Entrepreneurship [Back to top](#)

For additional information on this bill, please contact the Commerce, Insurance, and Economic Development Task Force Director, Michael Hough, at mhough@alec.org.

Public-Private Fair Competition Act

Prohibits government agencies from providing goods or services which are also provided by the private sector

Economy and Trade [Back to top](#)

For additional information on this bill, please contact the International Relations Task Force Director, Karla Jones, at kjones@alec.org.

Resolution Urging Congress to Pass the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP)

Calls on Congress to support negotiations for the passage of the TPP, as this agreement with reduce trade barriers between the United States and seven other countries in the Pacific Rim
[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Education [Back to top](#)

For additional information on Education bills, please contact the Education Task Force Director, Dave Myslinski, at dmyslinski@alec.org.

Higher Education Accountability Act

Promotes transparency in taxpayer-funded public institutions of higher education by requiring them to provide annual information on student and faculty engagement, student achievement, institutional efficiency, and other meaningful gauges of success
[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Special Needs Scholarship Program Act

Creates a scholarship program that provides students with special needs the option to attend the public or private elementary or secondary school of their parents' choice
[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Great Teachers and Leaders Act

Reforms the practice of tenure by eliminating the practice of forced teacher placement and replacing it with mutual consent hiring; allows school districts to make reduction-in-force decisions based on teacher performance rather than seniority
[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Environmental Regulatory Reform [Back to top](#)

For additional information on environmental regulatory reform bills, please contact the Energy, Environment and Agriculture Task Force Director, Clint Woods, at cwoods@alec.org.

State Sovereignty through Local Coordination Act

Grants city and town governments the authority to demand that the federal or state government coordinate its law or regulation with that of the local government when the federal or state government imposes a law or regulation more restrictive than local law or regulation
[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Environmental Good Samaritan Act

Encourages the voluntary reclamation of land and water adversely affected by mining or oil or gas extraction. It limits the potential legal liability of both landowners and participants who, under no legal obligation, engage in such cleanup projects

Environmental Priorities Act

Establishes an Environmental Priorities Council, which is designed to establish a list of environmental priorities based on an economic cost benefit analysis and scientific review; the *Environmental Priorities Act* finds that without an objective assessment of the state's environmental priorities, taxpayer dollars may be spent on projects that do not yield environmental benefits

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For additional information on EPA bills, please contact the Energy, Environment and Agriculture Task Force Director, Clint Woods, at cwoods@alec.org.

Resolution in Opposition to the EPA's Plan to Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Under the Clean Air Act

Opposes EPA regulation of greenhouse gas emissions under the *Clean Air Act*, citing the lack of legislative guidance, economic costs, and the minimal benefits of such a strategy.

More than two dozen states introduced similar resolutions opposing EPA's overreaching on greenhouse gas emissions in the last session. Additionally, several states, including Texas, Arizona, and Wyoming, took additional executive action to help counter the EPA in this arena.

Resolution to Retain State Authority over Hydraulic Fracturing

Finding that hydraulic fracturing is a proven technology with a long history of environmentally safe use in the completion of oil and gas wells, this resolution supports continued jurisdiction of the states to properly regulate oil and gas production according to their unique circumstances |

Climate Change [Back to top](#)

For additional information on climate change bills, please contact the Energy, Environment and Agriculture Task Force Director, Clint Woods, at cwoods@alec.org.

State Withdrawal from Regional Climate Initiatives

Urges governors to withdraw from their respective regional climate initiative agreements, including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord, and the Western Climate Initiative, as economically damaging and ineffective at addressing the global emissions levels

[View background information on this resolution here.](#)

Climate Accountability Act

Requires the state to audit environmental projects regularly to establish the economic costs and benefits of any program or expenditure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Health Care [Back to top](#)

For additional information on Health Care bills, please contact the Health and Human Services Task Force Director, Christie Herrera, at cherrera@alec.org.

Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act

States that no government may compel anyone to participate in any health care system or plan; also prohibits the imposition of penalties or fines on any person for choosing to obtain or decline health care coverage or for participating in any particular health care system or plan

[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Health Care Choice Act for States

Allows select out-of-state insurers to offer health insurance plans with policies and benefits that are not subject to state mandates

Mandated Benefits Review Act

Provides for a review of mandated benefits by the Department of Insurance. In turn, the

Department of Insurance will provide the legislature an actuarially-based review with regard to the proposal's medical efficacy and cost benefit(s)

Information Security [Back to top](#)

For additional information on this bill, please contact the Telecommunications and Information Technology Task Force Director, Seth Cooper, at scooper@alec.org.

Breach of Personal Information Notification Act

Helps ensure that the personal information of state residents is protected by providing procedures for notification of security breaches related to personal information; and thereby encouraging individuals and commercial entities to provide reasonable security for unencrypted personal information

Labor Union Reform [Back to top](#)

For additional information on this bill, please contact the Public Safety and Elections Task Force Director, Michael Hough, at mhough@alec.org.

Right to Work Act

Provides that no employee need join or pay dues to a union as a condition of employment
[View background information on this resolution here.](#)

Legal Reform [Back to top](#)

For additional information on legal reform bills, please contact the Civil Justice Task Force Director, Amy Kjose, at akjose@alec.org.

Private Attorney Retention Sunshine Act

Sheds light on contingency fee contracts between government agencies and private attorneys by requiring competitive bidding and legislative oversight
[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Transparency in Lawsuits Protection Act

Prohibits courts from creating new rights to sue without explicit expression in legislation
[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Trespasser Responsibility Act

Responds to a recent attempt to turn trespasser law on its head by codifying that land possessors owe no duty of care to trespassers and are not liable for harms to trespassers except in limited situations that are already recognized in the common law of most states

[View a short discussion piece on this bill here.](#)

[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Reliability in Expert Testimony Standards Act

Reforms expert evidence rules to ensure that experts are qualified and reliable, and that their testimony is relevant and fact-based

[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Tax and Fiscal Policy [Back to top](#)

For additional information on tax and fiscal policy bills, please contact the Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force Director, Jonathan Williams, at jwilliams@alec.org.

A Resolution in Opposition to Value-Added Taxes

Expresses strong opposition the implementation of additional taxes in the form of a European-style value-added tax (VAT), since this tax would impose a tremendous burden on American taxpayers, their families and businesses

[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Super-Majority Act

Calls for a constitutional provision requiring all tax and license fee impositions and increases to be approved by two-thirds of all members of each House. The Act provides for an exemption if there are insufficient revenues to pay interest on the state's debt

Tax and Expenditure Limitation Act

Links a tax and spending limit to an emergency reserve fund and a budget stabilization fund. The Act also provides for reductions in tax rates and/or tax rebates when surplus revenue accumulates above the tax and spending limit, and the cap on the emergency reserve fund and the budget stabilization reserve fund

[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Taxpayer Transparency Act

Directs the state budget office to create and maintain a searchable budget database website detailing where, for what purpose, and what results are achieved for all taxpayer investments in state government

[View background information on this bill here.](#)

Travel Agent Tax Fairness Act

Eliminates confusion and controversy in the imposition of hotel occupancy taxes on services provided by travel agents and other travel intermediaries. The Act clarifies that a service which helps travelers to research, compare, and book hotel reservations is not subject to hotel occupancy taxes

Smart-on-Crime [Back to top](#)

For additional information on smart-on-crime bills, please contact the Public Safety and Elections Legislative Assistant, Courtney O'Brien, at cobrien@alec.org.

Crimes with Bail Restrictions

Prevents high-risk, violent offenders from being released back into society without the protection of a surety bond

[View background information on this resolution here.](#)

Swift and Certain Sanctions Act

Requires community corrections agencies to adopt a set of graduated sanctions and rewards to respond to violations and compliance with the conditions of supervision; this will reduce recidivism rates and save money for states

[View background information on this resolution here.](#)

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