

Current Articles & Research Resources, June 25

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

- Search recent [law enforcement legislation](#) across all 50 states. (National Conference of State Legislatures, June 23, 2020)
- Read about how the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* could affect [poverty](#) levels. (Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University, June 21, 2020)
- Review statistics on [heat-related deaths](#) in the United States. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 19, 2020)
- Explore [law enforcement identification](#) issues and federal legislation. (Congressional Research Service, June 23, 2020)

Members of the Texas legislative community may request the articles below [here](#) or by calling 512-463-1252.

- 20.06.48 / "[Extended: A review of the current and proposed duration of 'pandemic' unemployment benefits.](#)" By Matt Weidinger. *American Enterprise Institute*, June 2020, pp. 1-23.
Compares prior federal emergency unemployment benefit programs — programs that extend unemployment insurance [UI] benefits to individuals who have exhausted state benefits. Discusses the extraordinary extended benefits paid during the Great Recession, current law in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and major proposals to extend and expand these benefits.
- 20.06.49 / "[The case for boosting SNAP benefits in next major economic response package.](#)" By Dorothy Rosenbaum, Stacy Dean, and Zoë Neuberger. *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*, Updated May 22, 2020, pp. 1-19.
Discusses the benefits of using increases to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] as an economic stimulus during the COVID-19 pandemic. Includes 50-state tables of the estimated increase by state in total SNAP benefits in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 from a 15 percent increase in maximum SNAP benefits, as well as the average monthly SNAP payment.
- 20.06.50 / "[As lockdown lingers, a rural reckoning with domestic violence.](#)" By Mbiria Donovan and Sara Miller Llana. *Christian Science Monitor*, June 15, 2020, pp. 1-7.
Explores the increased risks of domestic violence that rural communities face because of isolation and a lack of resources. Looks at Texas and Canada as examples and notes the risks are magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Explains new resources such as improved telehealth may offer long-term solutions.
- 20.06.51 / "[Shaky COVID response lays bare a decadeslong crisis in government.](#)" By Linda Feldmann. *Christian Science Monitor*, June 15, 2020, pp. 1-10.
Examines how the COVID-19 emergency has exposed the shortcomings in

America's current, highly-politicized, complex, and decentralized system of government that encourages short-term thinking and "dysfunction in budget-setting." Suggests this is an opportunity to consider reforming government to better meet public needs.

- 20.06.52 / "[Texas failing to keep youth in foster care safe.](#)" By Roxanna Asgarian. *Chronicle of Social Change*, June 16, 2020, pp. 1-4.
Discusses the June 16 [report](#) of the special monitors evaluating Texas' foster care system. Notes the report's finding that eleven children died in the care of the state between July 31, 2019 and April 30, 2020.
- 20.06.53 / "The California business exodus: COVID-19 could accelerate relocations to DFW." By Mark Calvey. *Dallas Business Journal*, June 19, 2020, pp. 10-11.
Points out California companies that are considering corporate relocation due in part to the pandemic's economic impact and to expensive state government mandates. Includes a sidebar on [California legislation](#) related to a rent moratorium for small businesses.
- 20.06.54 / "This entrepreneur wants to change the way we handle traffic stops." By Brian Womack. *Dallas Business Journal*, June 16, 2020, pp. 1-2.
Discusses the development of a smartphone application that modernizes the traffic stop process and is designed to prevent confrontational interactions between drivers and police.
- 20.06.55 / "The pandemic and state finances: The state budget train-crash." *Economist*, June 20th-26th, 2020, pp. 1-4.
Reports the collapse of state tax revenues and state rules mandating balanced budgets will result in big spending cuts to public services in the midst of a pandemic and a recession.
- 20.06.56 / "Death by lethal instruction." By Drew M Padley. *Houston Law Review*, Spring 2020, pp. 1101-1133 (Note Length).
Examines jury instructions in capital sentencing trials, including the history of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. [37.071](#), issues with the 12-10 rule and the gag rule, and the effect on verdicts in Texas death penalty cases. Discusses recent attempts at legislative reform and the unlikelihood of a judicial solution. Mentions Representative Abel Herrero, Representative Joe Mbody, Representative Armando Walle, and Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.
- 20.06.57 / "[Austerity, subsistence, or investment: Will Congress and the president choose to bail out our children's future?](#)" By Frank Adamson, Allison Brown, and Kevin G. Welner. *National Education Policy Center*, June 4, 2020, pp. 1-16.
Argues policymakers should resist austerity and subsistence measures during the current economic crisis driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and instead provide stimulus investment in public schools.
- 20.06.58 / "What the masks mean." By Michael Brendan Dougherty. *National Review*, June 22, 2020, pp. 18-19.
Considers the various views on mask-wearing brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Discusses the daigou shoppers [surrogate shopping] phenomenon, which exhausted the mask supply early in the pandemic. Scrutinizes the role mask-shaming plays in our current American society.
- 20.06.59 / "The once and future grid: Investing in the smart grid." By Zolaikha Strong. *Public Utilities Fortnightly*, June 1, 2020, pp. 1-3.
Argues for the continuing need to invest in the electric grid. Provides several reasons explaining why this is important, including protecting employees during

the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 20.06.60 / "Do charter schools harm traditional public schools? Years of test-score data suggest they don't." By Marcus A. Winters. *Report (Manhattan Institute)*, June 2020, pp. 1-10.

Examines whether competition from charter schools leads to lower student outcomes within traditional public schools.

- 20.06.61 / "Nearly half of coronavirus spread may be traced to people without any symptoms." By Alice Park. *Time*, June 5, 2020, pp. 1-6.

Details results from a study conducted by Scripps Translational Science Institute on the asymptomatic spread of COVID-19. Includes discussion of widespread testing, face masks, and findings that some asymptomatic people are presenting lung damage typical of the coronavirus infection.

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