1. Resolution Commending the National Conference of State Legislatures on 40 Years of Service to the States


4. Resolution in Support of the Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Compact

5. Resolution in Support of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement

6. Resolution on Supporting Intellectual Property (IP) Rights to Protect Jobs and Promote Economic Development

7. Resolution on the Reauthorization of the U.S. Export-Import Bank

8. Resolution Supporting Online Voting Information for Military and Overseas Citizens
RESOLUTION COMMENDING
THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES
ON 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATES

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) was created on January 1, 1975 to serve as a champion for state legislatures; and

WHEREAS, NCSL is committed to the success of all legislators and staff by improving the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures, promoting policy innovation and communication among state legislatures, and ensuring that state legislatures have a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system; and

WHEREAS, NCSL has helped states remain strong and independent by giving them the tools, information and resources to craft the best solutions to difficult problems; and

WHEREAS, NCSL has served as a stalwart defender of the states against unwarranted federal preemption of state laws, unfunded mandates and federal legislation that threatens state authority and autonomy; and

WHEREAS, NCSL serves as an effective partner to sister state and local government associations in the creation of innovative policy programming and the defense of states’ rights; and

WHEREAS, The Council of State Governments values its partnership with NCSL and remains committed to working with NCSL to advance the interests of the states.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments commends the National Conference of State Legislatures on 40 years of exceptional service to the states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments celebrates the tireless efforts of The National Conference of State Legislatures' leaders, members, management and staff in advancing and sustaining the role of the states in our federal system.

Adopted this ___ Day of August, 2014 at the CSG National Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

EXPIRES: August 2017
RESOLUTION CONCERNING U.S. EPA PROPOSED GREENHOUSE GAS REGULATIONS FOR EXISTING FOSSIL-FUELED POWER PLANTS

Resolution Summary and Background

President Obama issued a June 25, 2013 memorandum to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) directing the agency to issue proposed carbon pollution standards, regulations, or guidelines as appropriate for modified, reconstructed, and existing power plants. The EPA responded by issuing proposed rules requiring states to submit implementation plans to meet proposed standards of performance under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act by June of 2016.

Considering the proposed standards aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions will require each state to restructure their current power supply landscape, this resolution highlights the importance of a reliable and affordable supply of electricity. It recognizes that although many states have already taken measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions the new proposed standards may cause power generation units to retire, specifically coal units. The resolution notes the regulation of retail electricity sales and local distribution is a sovereign state function.

The resolution directs CSG to urge federal agencies and the executive branch to set a national policy that removes barriers to all forms of domestic energy. Additionally, CSG would encourage the EPA to recognize the sovereign power of state regulators. CSG would urge state policymakers to work closely with appropriate stakeholders before submitting comments on the proposed rule to the EPA. Furthermore, CSG would encourage states to inform their congressional delegations on their evaluations and comments of the proposed rule. Lastly, CSG staff would be encouraged to provide education initiatives on this topic.

Additional Information

- EPA Proposed Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units (111d rule text) –
- EPA Clean Power Plant Toolbox for States –
  - http://www2.epa.gov/cleanpowerplantoolbox
- EPA Fact Sheet on the Role of States: States Decide How They Will Cut Carbon Pollution –
- President Obama’s Memorandum - Power Sector Carbon Pollution Standards –
- President Obama’s Climate Action Plan -
- IPM results at the generating unit level –
CSG Management Directives

1. CSG staff will post the approved resolution on CSG’s Web site and liaison with the executive branch and Congress to urge a review and examination of policies that inhibit domestic energy production as well as encourage the EPA to recognize the sovereign power of the state regulators.

2. CSG staff will encourage and help facilitate communication between state policymakers and other state stakeholders when drafting comments on the proposed EPA rule and encourage communication between state policymakers and their congressional delegations.

3. CSG staff will help provide states with educational materials related to Section 111(d).

4. CSG staff will transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the U.S. EPA, the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Governor’s Association, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, National Association of State Energy Officials, the Environmental Council of the States and other relevant organizations, and leadership in all states and CSG staff are directed to work with the Congress, federal agencies and stakeholder coalitions.
WHEREAS, states believe that electricity affects all aspects of American life and is indispensable for quality of life, economic growth, and the sustainability of modern society; and

WHEREAS, electricity will only become more important in the future as the demand for electricity continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, President Obama issued a June 25, 2013 memorandum directing the U.S. EPA to issue proposed carbon pollution standards, regulations or guidelines, as appropriate, for modified, reconstructed and existing power plants by no later than June 1, 2014 and to issue final standards, regulations or guidelines, as appropriate, by June 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution calls for the federal government to respect and preserve state sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of retail electricity sales and local distribution is a sovereign state function and each state has the responsibility to ensure a reliable and affordable supply of electricity for their citizens; and

WHEREAS, economic output of states has increased while states have managed electricity generation, distribution and transmission to cost-effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions according to the U.S. EPA using multiple methodologies; and

WHEREAS, the President directed the U.S. EPA to engage the States recognizing, “they will play a central role in establishing and implementing standards for existing power plants;” and

WHEREAS, at the invitation of U.S. EPA, elected legislative bodies and individual elected officials, policymakers, and stakeholders provided input to the U.S. EPA recommending U.S. EPA only provide guidelines on achievable carbon dioxide emission reduction measures states could take at affected coal-fired electric generating units and giving states credit for all previous actions to reduce their emissions so states could make decisions on additional generation and end-use efficiency measures if necessary as provided by the Clean Air Act Section 111d and its 40 CFR 60 implementing regulations; and
WHEREAS, the U.S. EPA published proposed emission reduction regulations for existing fossil fueled power plants in June 2014 requiring state-specific plans to further reduce emissions that the U.S. EPA acknowledges will cause significant and rapid changes in states’ energy mixes including almost 50 gigawatts of retirements of baseload coal generation between 2016 and 2020 in addition to the 71 gigawatts retired between 2010 and 2020, increases in the price of electricity and significant numbers of jobs to be lost with less than 24 month timeline for states to comply by 2020 after U.S. EPA approves state plans; and

WHEREAS, states will likely be challenged to implement real world efficiency improvements at affected units and end uses by consumers, renewable and nuclear energy deployments, natural gas electricity capacity factors at levels determined by U.S. EPA and could be forced to retire additional units in order to comply with emission reduction goals and timeline U.S. EPA has set for them; and

WHEREAS, states simultaneously support reasonable environmental protection with assured energy security, production, distribution, efficiency and economic growth in the United States but they find that the U.S. EPA plans would transform their electricity generation and delivery systems with risks to power 60 million homes, their citizens, communities, businesses, and agriculture; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments urges the executive branch and Congress to establish a national energy policy that encourages access to and removal of impediments to all available domestic sources of energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Council of State Governments encourages the U.S. EPA to recognize the sovereign power of state regulators to avoid costly litigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments recommends state policymakers work closely with their environmental commissioners, informed by electricity providers and other stakeholders, this resolution and the state’s previous recommendations, to develop comments and where appropriate comments with other states addressing the legal, economic, employment, timing, achievability, affordability, implementation scheduling and reliability issues in the proposed regulations for their state and file them by U.S. EPA’s comment deadline and to stay engaged with U.S. EPA and other relevant federal agencies after the comment period ends and the regulation is finalized to eliminate or minimize the risks and consequences from U.S. EPA’s Clean Power Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments encourages states to inform their congressional delegations on their evaluations and comments and encourage these representatives to help resolve issues by reducing or eliminating negative consequences from U.S. EPA’s proposed regulation; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments staff is encouraged to support states with education initiatives for its members by webinars, meetings, written communications and other means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are to be transmitted to the President of the United States, the U.S. EPA, the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Governor’s Association, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, National Association of State Energy Officials, the Environmental Council of the States and other relevant organizations, and leadership in all states and CSG staff are directed to work with the Congress, federal agencies and stakeholder coalitions to achieve the goals of this resolution.

Adopted this ____ Day of August, 2014 at CSG’s 2014 National Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

EXPIRES: August 2017
RESOLUTION CONCERNING CLEAN WATER ACT REGULATIONS AND U.S. EPA’S DEFINITION OF “WATERS OF THE U.S.”

Resolution Summary and Background

On April 21, 2014 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Corps of Engineers drafted a proposed rule to revise the definition of “waters of the United States” under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The proposed rule states the revision, “would enhance protection for the nation’s public health and aquatic resources, and increase CWA program predictability and consistency by increasing clarity as to the scope of ‘waters of the United States.’”

This resolution recognizes the authority of each state to allocate quantities of water within its jurisdiction. It notes the proposed rule has no prescribed limits to federal jurisdiction and does not clearly define what waters are to be regulated under the federal government vs the state’s jurisdiction or how the CWA jurisdiction change might affect WCA programs, state laws, water rights etc. The resolution further notes the proposed rule will subject more actives to CWA permitting requirements costing additional time and money and that the economic impact of the proposed rule was not adequately assessed.

The resolution urges the EPA and the Corps of Engineers to defer adopting any redefinition of the waters of the U.S. until the Science Advisory Board concludes its review of the proposed rule and their conclusions are incorporated as well as completing an economic analysis that addresses the full economic impact of the rule.

Additional Information

- EPA and Army Corps of Engineers Proposed Clean Water Act Definition of "Waters of the U.S." (rule text)

- Proposed “Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’ Under the Clean Water Act”

- EPA’s Questions and Answers about Waters of the US

- Summary of Clean Water Act
  - http://www2.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-water-act

- Rapanos v. United States
  - http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/pdf/04-1034P.ZO

- Economist review of EPA’s Economic Analysts of Proposed Waters of the U.S. Rule
CSG Management Directives

1. CSG staff will post the approved resolution on CSG’s website and liaison with the EPA and Corps of Engineers to urge the deferment of adopting any redefinition of the waters of the U.S. until Science Advisory Board’s conclusions can be incorporated and the economic analysis updated with better data.

2. CSG staff will transmit copies of this resolution to the President, all members of Congress, the Administrator of the US EPA, and the leadership of the US Army Corps of Engineers.
WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act (CWA) and implementing regulations of the past four decades recognize the partnership between federal, state, and local governments to achieve the objectives of the Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 101(g) of the CWA expressly states that it is “the authority of each state to allocate quantities of water within its jurisdiction [that] shall not be superseded, abrogated, or otherwise impaired by this Act”; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have a proposed rule to redefine “waters of the U.S.” that could significantly increase the cost and regulatory requirements for state and local governments and ultimately the costs for state and local residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule has no prescribed limits to federal jurisdiction and does not clearly define what waters are to be regulated under the federal government and what waters are under the state’s jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule will apply to all programs of the CWA and therefore subject more activities to CWA permitting requirements, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses, mitigation requirements, and citizen suits challenging local actions based on the applicability and interpretation of new-found authorities; and

WHEREAS, the costs of obtaining Corps wetlands permits are significant: averaging 788 days and $271,596 for an individual permit; 313 days and $28,915 for a nationwide permit—not counting costs of mitigation or design changes and the greatest burden will fall on small landowners and small businesses least able to absorb the costs; and

WHEREAS, the proposing agencies’ economic analysis for this rule did not consider impacts of the full range of CWA programs affected or of economic impacts to small businesses and the analysis relies on nearly 20-year old cost data that has not been adjusted for inflation and, in concluding that the proposed rule would increase the waters subject to permitting requirements by only 2.7 percent, the proposing agencies rely on a data base that is incomplete and not representative of those waters that are subject to jurisdiction under current regulation; and
WHEREAS, the justification for the scope of the proposed rule rests on a scientific analysis that is still under review and the proposing agencies decided to proceed with development of a proposed rule addressing issues associated with the connectivity of waters prior to being informed by the Science Advisory Board Review and the implications of its findings; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule does not provide an explanation or clear understanding about how the proposed expansion of CWA jurisdiction and transfer of ultimate authority might affect other CWA programs, state laws and responsibilities, water rights, land use, governances, and regulated parties; and

WHEREAS, EPA and the Corps have not fulfilled statutory obligations to fully consult with the states thus undermining the cooperative federalism intent at the heart of the CWA;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as co-regulators of water resources, states should be fully consulted and engaged in any process that may affect the management of their waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments urges the EPA and the Corps of Engineers to defer adopting any redefinition of the waters of the U.S. rule until:

The Science Advisory Board concludes its review and the EPA and the Corps of Engineers incorporates the conclusions of the Science Advisory Board review; and
An economic analysis is completed that addresses the full economic impact of the rule and uses properly updated data.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the President, all members of Congress, the Administrator of the US EPA, and the leadership of the US Army Corps of Engineers and the CSG staff is directed to advocate for policies that reflect these principles.

Adopted this ____ Day of August, 2014 at CSG’s 2014 National Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

EXPIRES: August 2017
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE RECOGNITION OF EMS PERSONNEL LICENSURE COMPACT

Resolution Summary and Background

States have had the authority to license emergency medical services (EMS) personnel since the 1970s. While the federal government frequently provides resources and assistance to aid states in assuring the competency of EMS personnel, states issue licenses based on their own individual practices.

The license issued to EMS personnel by a state is based on a determination of the individual’s fitness to practice and the individual must meet or exceed the minimum requirements established by that state’s laws and regulations. These requirements vary by state, but often include:

- Completing a state approved or nationally accredited training program;
- Obtaining a passing score on a national certification examination;
- Passing a criminal history background check;
- Being credentialed by a licensed ambulance service or other emergency agency; and
- Having a medical director who is responsible for verifying the competency of the provider on a periodic basis.

The EMS industry has undergone many changes since the 1970s. It is increasingly common for emergency medical personnel to cross state lines to provide services on a day-to-day basis and during nondeclared states of emergency.

This increased interstate movement and cooperation has placed a renewed emphasis on how EMS personnel are licensed to ensure that they are not being accused of practicing medicine in a state in which they are not licensed. As a result, the need for a universal means of assuring a legal, accountable and geographically consistent method of licensing EMS personnel is growing.

While there have been limited efforts to address the problem—notably states that share common borders entering into memorandums of understanding to allow emergency medical personnel to work across state lines—a more permanent and wide-reaching solution has not been found. One promising tool to solve this growing problem is through the creation of a new interstate compact that would allow member states to self-regulate the existing system for licensing emergency medical personnel.

To that end CSG, through its National Center for Interstate Compacts and in partnership with the National Associations of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) and with the support of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, has developed the Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Compact (REPLICA). Under the terms of the new agreement, member states would agree to honor other jurisdiction’s licenses so long as the license is issued in another member state in a manner consistent with the agreement.
**Additional Information**

- National Association of State EMS Officials  
  - [http://www.nasemso.org/](http://www.nasemso.org/)
- CSG's National Center for Interstate Compacts  
  - [http://www.csg.org/ncic/](http://www.csg.org/ncic/)

**CSG Management Directives**

1. CSG staff, in conjunction with its partners at the NASEMSOs, will continue to promote REPLICA in an effort to raise awareness of the new compact and the policy challenges it addresses.

2. CSG staff, in conjunction with NASEMSO, will continue to provide educational materials and technical assistance to states considering REPLICA.

3. REPLICA is intended to supplement the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) by addressing day-to-day events and major incidents that do not reach the level of a gubernatorial declared state of emergency. In the event of a gubernatorial declared state of emergency, EMAC will apply and the terms of REPLICA will not supersede EMAC.

4. CSG will transmit a copy of this resolution to the executive and legislative leaders in each state, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, EMAC staff, and selected members of the national Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures and the U.S. Congress.

5. CSG staff will post this approved resolution on CSG’s Web site and make it available through its regular communication venues to ensure its distribution to the state government and policy community.
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RECOGNITION OF EMS PERSONNEL LICENSURE COMPACT

WHEREAS, states have had the authority to license emergency medical service (EMS) personnel since the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, based on this authority, states have traditionally issued licenses according to their own individual regulations and assessments of an individual’s fitness to practice; and

WHEREAS, these requirements vary considerably from state to state and no formal long-term inter-jurisdictional EMS licensing regime currently exists; and

WHEREAS, it is becoming increasingly common for EMS personnel to cross state borders to deliver emergency and life-saving services on a day-to-day basis; and

WHEREAS, this increased interstate movement places a new emphasis on how EMS personnel are licensed to ensure they are not practicing in a state in which they are not licensed to practice; and

WHEREAS, the growth of telehealth, a desire to increase access to health care professionals, the Affordable Care Act, and personal mobility are factors currently compelling several other medical professions to consider and adopt interstate licensing compacts; and

WHEREAS, the use of the interstate compact mechanism to address interstate emergencies and declared disasters is well established with interstate agreements such as the 50-state Emergency Management Assistance Compact and the regional Forest Fire Protection Compacts; and

WHEREAS, The Council of State Governments (CSG), through its National Center for Interstate Compacts and in partnership with the National Associations of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) and with the support of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, has facilitated the development of the Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Compact (REPLICA) as a 50-state solution to this challenging policy issue.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments supports the establishment of the Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Compact (REPLICA) and encourages its
member jurisdictions to consider the new interstate agreement as an innovative policy solution to the challenge of interstate EMS personnel emergency and life-saving operations.

Adopted this ___ Day of August, 2014 at the CSG National Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

EXPIRES: August 2017
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT

Resolution Summary and Background

Online education is the fastest growing segment of higher education. More than 6.7 million students took at least one online course during the 2011-12 school year according to the Sloan Consortium. That represents 32 percent of the higher education community's total enrollment. Colleges and universities are responding to the growing demand for distance learning programs. In fact, 62.4 percent of colleges and universities surveyed by the Sloan Consortium now offer fully online degree programs. That percentage is up from 32.5 percent in 2002.

As more higher education institutions offer online education across state lines, a uniform process to streamline the patchwork of regulations for authorizing institutions to operate across state boundaries is becoming more important.

One such solution may be found through state consideration of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). SARA was developed as a joint effort between the Presidents’ Forum, The Council of State Governments, the Commission on Regulation of Postsecondary Distance Education, and the four regional higher education compacts – the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

Over the course of the last three years these collaborating organizations have worked to advance a unified and effective framework that would allow institutions to more easily offer distance learning across state lines, while promoting student interests and consumer protection. SARA is a voluntary agreement intended to simplify and streamline the process for authorizing distance/online degree programs across state lines. The agreement aims to increase access to degree attainment and reduce costs for students, states, and institutions.

Some of the essential components of SARA include the following:

- Participation in the agreement is entirely voluntary for states and institutions;
- The state in which an institution offering an online program is located will regulate the institution's online offerings nationally and serve as the home state;
- Each home state that agrees to participate in SARA will be responsible for ensuring participating institutions meet quality standards;
- Each member state will agree to accept similar assurances from other participating states;
- The home state will resolve any complaints lodged against the out-of-state activities of its SARA institution that are not resolved at the institutional level;
- The home state will use their existing structure for authorizing institutions. Participation in the agreement does not require the creation of a new authorizing structure in the state; and
- There are no fees charged states that join SARA. Implementation is supported by grant funds and institutional fees will support on-going operations.
Additional Information

- National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements
  o http://www.nc-sara.org/

- CSG’S National Center for Interstate Compacts
  o http://www.csg.org/ncic/

- The Presidents’ Forum
  o http://www.presidentsforum.org/

- The Commission on the Regulation of Postsecondary Distance Education
  o http://www.sheeo.org/node/527

- Southern Regional Education Board
  o http://www.sreb.org/

- New England Board of Higher Education
  o http://www.nebhe.org/

- Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
  o http://www.wiche.edu/

- Midwestern Higher Education Compact
  o http://www.mhec.org/

CSG Management Directives

1. CSG staff will continue promoting the work of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements national office and the four regional higher education compacts in efforts to raise awareness about SARA.

2. CSG staff, in conjunction with the groups listed above, will continue providing educational materials and technical assistance to states considering SARA when requested.

3. CSG will transmit a copy of this resolution to the executive and legislative leaders in each state, the Department of Education, and selected members from NGA, NCSL, and the U.S. Congress.

4. CSG staff will post this approved resolution on CSG’s Web site and make it available through its regular communication venues at the state and local level to ensure its distribution to the state government and policy community.
WHEREAS, online education is the fastest growing segment of the higher education field; and

WHEREAS, in the 2011-12 school year more than 6.7 million students took at least one online course, representing approximately 32 percent of the higher education community’s total enrollment; and

WHEREAS, 62.4 percent of colleges and universities surveyed by the Sloan Consortium now offer fully online degree programs; and

WHEREAS, as more higher education institutions offer online education across state lines, a uniform process of regulation for authorizing institutions to operate on an interstate basis is becoming more important; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the last three years The Council of State Governments (CSG) has worked jointly with the Presidents’ Forum, the Commission on Regulation of Postsecondary Distance Education, and the four regional higher education compacts – the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) – to develop the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA); and

WHEREAS, SARA is a voluntary agreement intended to simplify and streamline the process for authorizing distance/online degree programs across state lines; and

WHEREAS, there are no fees charged to states that join SARA; and

WHEREAS, SARA has been adopted in seven states during the 2014 state legislative sessions, including: Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, North Dakota, Nevada, and Washington.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments supports the establishment of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) and encourages its member jurisdictions to consider the new interstate agreement as an innovative policy solution that will increase degree attainment and reduce costs for students, states, and institutions.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CSG staff will provide ongoing assistance to the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements national office and the four regional higher education compacts in their efforts to raise awareness about SARA.

Adopted this ___ Day of August, 2014 at the CSG National Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

EXPIRES: August 2017
RESOLUTION ON SUPPORTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) RIGHTS TO PROTECT JOBS AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Resolution Summary and Background

This resolution reinforces that America’s economic engine is fueled by intellectual property rights, which drive innovation and protect consumers. State by state, innovative and creative companies perform better and contribute more to the local economies than their counterparts. The direct and indirect economic impacts of innovation are overwhelming, accounting for more than 40% of U.S. economic growth and employment, 40 million American jobs, 30% higher wages, and 74% of total exports. The long-term vitality of these companies will rely on the commitment from elected officials to foster and protect the creativity and ingenuity of American IP-intensive companies. In addition to its economic importance, IP enforcement is critical to protecting consumers from potentially dangerous and counterfeit products.

Additional Information


CSG Management Directives

- CSG staff will post approved resolution on CSG’s Web site and work with Congress, executive branch officials, and stakeholders to promote policies to protect intellectual property, reduce fraudulent theft, and protect American businesses and consumers.
WHEREAS, innovation and intellectual property (IP) is a critical competitive advantage and driver for long-term economic growth in the U.S; and

WHEREAS, IP companies together make up more than one-third of the U.S. economy and directly employ more than 19 million workers in all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, IP companies on average pay higher wages than non-intellectual property companies; and

WHEREAS, IP companies are a major contributor to total U.S. exports, accounting for more than $1 trillion in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. economy loses an estimated $300 billion annually due to IP theft, resulting in lost tax revenue to federal, state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the U.S. Customs and Border Protection record 24,361 seizures of counterfeited goods, an increase of 7 percent from 2012, and valued over $1.7 trillion.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments requests Congress and the federal government to pursue opportunities to protect intellectual property, reduce fraudulent theft, and protect American businesses and consumers.

Adopted this ___ Day of August, 2014 at the CSG National Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

EXPIRES: August 2017
RESOLUTION ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE U.S. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Resolution Summary and Background

Exports have accounted for roughly one third of U.S. economic growth since 2009, and overseas markets are increasingly important for small and medium sized businesses as well as large corporations. Having access to export capital, especially in rural areas, is one of the top barriers for exporters, and this is where the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) plays an important role in the American economy. As America’s foreign competitors increase their export financing programs, at home Ex-Im Bank’s charter is set to expire in September, 2014. This resolution supports Ex-Im reauthorization as a vital tool for expanding American exports.

Additional Information

- Annual Report 2013, Export-Import Bank of the United States, April, 2014
  - http://www.exim.gov/about/library/reports/annualreports/2013/


- The Ex-Im Bank Battle is Personal for These Small Business Owners, The Washington Post, June, 2014

  - http://www.nam.org/Issues/Trade/Ex-Im-Bank.aspx?gclid=CNat_4mHyr8CFfE7MgodDHAAcQ

CSG Management Directives

- CSG staff will post approved resolution on CSG’s Web site and work with Congress, executive branch officials, and stakeholder coalitions to support Ex-Im reauthorization.
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE U.S. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

WHEREAS, exports has accounted for roughly one third of U.S. economic growth since 2009, and overseas markets are increasingly important for small and medium sized businesses as well as large corporations; and

WHEREAS, limited access to export capital is a major obstacle for businesses, especially small businesses, to export their goods and services; and

WHEREAS, small businesses are the nation’s leading job creators and make up 98 percent of all U.S. exporters, and 90 percent of Ex-Im transactions directly benefit small businesses and suppliers across all fifty states; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 alone, Ex-Im Bank helped 3,800 companies earn more than $37 billion in export sales, which supported more than 205,000 American jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Ex-Im Bank acts as a lender of last resort and thereby does not compete with commercial banks, but instead fills export financing gaps through its loan, guarantee, and insurance programs when the private sector is unable or unwilling to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Ex-Im Bank’s effectiveness in enhancing American competitiveness comes at no cost to the taxpayer, its services generate adequate revenue to offset its operating costs, and all surplus funds, nearly $1 billion in 2013, are transferred to the U.S. Treasury which reduces the U.S. federal deficit; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments urges Congress to pass reauthorization of Ex-Im Bank before the current authorization extension expires September, 2014.

Adopted this ___ Day of August, 2014 at the CSG National Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

EXPIRES: August 2017
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ONLINE VOTING
INFORMATION FOR MILITARY AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS

Resolution Summary and Background

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) helps uniformed services personnel, their voting-age dependents, and overseas civilians to more easily exercise their right to vote in Federal elections. The act covers more than six million potential voters, including active duty members of the uniformed services including the Coast Guard, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, the Merchant Marine, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and their voting age dependents; as well as U.S. citizens residing outside the United States. While much of FVAP’s work occurs at the federal level, this challenge also extends to state election policy and processes.

Promoting the right of uniformed services personnel, their voting-age dependents, and overseas civilians to vote in federal elections is of paramount importance to the American system of democracy. U.S. citizens who are located overseas must be able to register to vote, request and receive absentee ballots in a timely manner, and successfully cast those ballots in their state of legal residence.

CSG, in support of and working in cooperation with the US Dept. of Defense’s Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness through a 4-year, $3.2 million cooperative agreement, is engaged in outreach and technical assistance to state policymakers in better understanding the needs of overseas voters and is conducting research on electronic absentee ballot voting systems for voting by this important constituency. As the only national membership association serving all three branches of state government in all 50 states, DC and the US territories, CSG is uniquely positioned to provide the US Dept. of Defense with collaborative management and research services including interstate policy clearinghouse services as well as policy deliverable development and dissemination and the provision of direct technical services to state and local governments on innovative military and overseas voting technologies and policies.

Additional Information

- Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act)

- Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)

- Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA)
  - http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/workflow_staging/Page/41.PDF

- Federal Voting Assistance Program
  - http://www.fvap.gov/

- National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)
  - http://www.nass.org/

- National Association of State Elections Directors (NASED)
CSG Management Directives

1. CSG staff will work closely with the US Dept. of Defense and the FVAP program to:

   a) Conduct research and policy analysis of electronic absentee voting systems for military voters with which they may cast votes in federal elections.

   b) Deploy educational policy programming and deliverables to local and state leaders focused on other electronic systems to support military and overseas voters including an electronic voter registration and federal write-in absentee ballot systems for federal candidates, and other online absentee balloting delivery and information portals.

   c) Develop and disseminate other policy research deliverables, programming, initiatives and meetings in support of the cooperative agreement.

2. CSG staff will post the approved resolution on CSG's Web site and work with state elections leaders to provide specific information for UOCAVA voters on each state's elections Website(s) as well as a link to the U.S. Department of Defense Federal Voting Assistance Program Website.

3. CSG staff will transmit copies of this resolution to Congress supporting the full funding of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements to help states improve electronic communication and information available to military and overseas voters.
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ONLINE VOTING
INFORMATION FOR MILITARY AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS

WHEREAS, members of the Uniformed Services, including the United States Armed Forces, Merchant Marine, Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, are serving the United States in many locations throughout the world today; and

WHEREAS, members of the Uniformed Services are making extraordinary personal sacrifices in service to the United States to promote and defend democracy; and

WHEREAS, many overseas citizens are serving in the Peace Corps, doing missionary work, working in the foreign service field, attending school or pursuing work in an international field; and

WHEREAS, the most precious right of a democracy is the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution guarantees the right to vote to all citizens who are of legal age on Election Day; and

WHEREAS, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE) passed in October 2009 made significant changes to federal election laws affecting absentee voting by uniformed and overseas citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program (www.fvap.gov) Web site provides and maintains election information specifically focused on assisting voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and MOVE, including a link to each state's elections Web site with specific elections information regarding UOCAVA voting; and

WHEREAS, it is important that individual states maintain election information specific to UOCAVA voters on their Web sites; and

WHEREAS, state leaders are committed to assuring that all qualified citizens can have their right to vote facilitated by state election officials through the most modern and secure technologies available.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments recommends that each state’s elections Web site provide specific information for UOCAVA voters, and that each Web site provide a link to the U.S. Department of Defense Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments supports the full funding of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements to help states improve electronic communication and information available to military and overseas voters.

Adopted this ____ Day of August, 2014 at CSG’s 2014 National Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

EXPIRES: August 2017
Overview

The public sector members of The Council of State Governments (CSG) may, from time to time, wish to articulate specific policy positions, endorse specific policy practices, comment on specific federal actions as they relate to the states, or recognize/honor public officials. Such actions are permitted under CSG’s Articles of Organization and are directed by these guidelines as maintained by the CSG Executive Committee.

Note: these guidelines only pertain to the introduction, consideration and adoption of policy resolutions by CSG’s national headquarters and Washington, DC-based governance, standing and public policy committees. Each CSG regional governing authority is authorized to adopt policy resolution guidelines for use in that region.

Policy Resolution Criteria

CSG national policy resolutions should:

- have a regional and/or national focus;
- be timely and address an issue of pressing concern to the states;
- be directed at Congress, the administration or the federal courts;
- be in response to pending or potential federal action;
- promote state sovereignty and protect the role of the states in our federal system; and
- take into consideration the actions and/or policies of the other state and local government associations.

CSG National Meetings

Policy Resolution Introduction, Voting and Approval

General Rules

1. Only public sector CSG members may propose policy resolutions. For consideration by any CSG national governance, standing or public policy committee, policy resolutions must have an identified public sector sponsor present to introduce the resolution, answer questions about the proposal and provide general support.

2. Policy resolutions must be submitted to CSG staff by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern) on the 21st day prior to the start of the national meeting at which the policy resolution is to be considered. Policy resolutions failing to meet this deadline will not be considered.

3. Policy resolutions must be posted on CSG’s website (www.csg.org) and distributed to relevant committee membership no later than 14 days prior to the start of the national meeting at which policy resolutions are to be considered.

4. Policy resolutions endorsed by the CSG Executive Committee will remain in effect for three years, unless an earlier expiration is provided in the policy resolution, at which time the policy resolution will sunset and no longer reflect CSG’s official policy position/endorsement, unless otherwise reinstated by a new vote.

5. Policy resolutions endorsed by the CSG Executive Committee will be posted on CSG’s websites within 48 hours of adoption.

Committee Assignments

During CSG’s national meetings (typically mid-Spring and late-Fall of each year), policy resolutions may be introduced in one of four ways:

1. CSG Public Policy Committees – policy resolutions may be introduced to the CSG public policy committee of appropriate jurisdiction (education, energy & environment, fiscal & economic development, health, and transportation). Resolutions approved by each public policy committee are then forwarded during the same CSG national meeting to CSG’s Intergovernmental Affairs Committee (IGA) for review and approval.
2. CSG Intergovernmental Affairs Committee (IGA) – in addition to reviewing those policy resolutions approved by CSG’s public policy committees, the IGA Committee may directly take up any policy resolution that does not fit within the defined jurisdictions of the public policy committees. Upon adoption by the IGA Committee, policy resolutions are forwarded during the same CSG national meeting to CSG’s Executive Committee for final consideration and approval.

3. CSG Standing Committees – all CSG Standing Committees, e.g., Finance or Interbranch Affairs, may draft, vet, and endorse policy resolutions and refer such matters directly to the CSG Executive Committee for overall CSG adoption without first referring to the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. However, all policy resolutions emanating from a CSG Standing Committee must be considered, vetted, and endorsed by the CSG Executive Committee before being represented as CSG policy.

4. CSG Executive Committee – only interim policy resolutions adopted by the CSG Leadership Council between CSG Executive Committee meetings may be considered directly by the CSG Executive Committee. All other policy resolutions must first be introduced through a CSG standing or public policy committee and may not be submitted directly to the CSG Executive Committee.

Voting and Approval

1. CSG Standing and Public Policy Committees – the quorum requirement for each CSG standing and public policy committee is one-fourth (25%) of those member jurisdictions represented on the committee. The endorsement of a policy resolution by any CSG standing or public policy committee requires approval by a majority vote (50% + 1) of those present and voting.

2. CSG Executive Committee – the quorum requirement for the CSG Executive Committee, when considering policy resolutions, is twenty-five (25) members. The endorsement of a policy resolution by the CSG Executive Committee requires approval by a majority vote (50% + 1) of those present and voting.

Policy Resolution Format

Policy resolutions submitted for consideration by CSG must contain the following information in addition to the policy statement:

1. Background information and/or legislative history of the policy resolution topic;

2. Internet links allowing CSG members to obtain additional information about the policy resolution topic; and

3. Management directives detailing desired outcomes and staff follow-through for all CSG endorsed resolutions. Such directives should: a) clearly define the goals of the resolution; b) clearly define the timeline of action associated with the resolution; c) clearly define and set standards of accountability; and d) meet the goals and priorities of CSG’s mission.

Sample CSG policy resolutions may be found at: http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/category/content-type/content-type/resolutions

Policy Resolution Assistance

CSG’s professional staff members are available to assist with the policy resolution process and to answer questions about specific policy areas related to such resolutions.

- Education (Pam Goins – pgoins@csg.org)
- Energy & Environment (Rebekah Fitzgerald – rfitzgerald@csg.org)
- Economic Development and Fiscal Affairs (Jennifer Burnett – jburnett@csg.org)
- Health (Debra Miller – dmill@csg.org)
- Federalism & Intergovernmental Affairs (Andy Karellas – akarellas@csg.org)
- Interstate Compacts (Crady deGolian – cdgolian@csg.org)
- International (Catherine Bray – cbray@csg.org)
- Transportation (Sean Slone – ssione@csg.org)
Interim Policymaking

Policy resolutions failing to meet the 21-day submission deadline for CSG national meetings or policy resolutions deemed pressing due to the timely nature of the topic may be submitted to CSG’s Leadership Council for consideration between meetings of CSG’s Executive Committee. All policy resolutions endorsed by CSG’s Leadership Council will stand as CSG national policy until the next meeting of the CSG Executive Committee during which the interim policy resolution may be approved or rescinded. No policy resolutions endorsed by the CSG Leadership Council may remain in effect beyond the next CSG Executive Committee meeting unless affirmed by the CSG Executive Committee.

Interim Policy Resolution Introduction, Voting and Approval

General Rules

1. Only public sector CSG members may propose interim policy resolutions. For consideration by the CSG Leadership Council, interim policy resolutions must have an identified public sector sponsor, must be properly formatted (see Policy Resolution Format) and must be forwarded to appropriate CSG staff for transmittal to CSG Leadership Council members.

2. CSG staff will notify CSG Leadership Council members and electronically transmit a copy of the proposed interim policy resolution and supporting materials within 2 business days of receipt of the proposed interim policy resolution.

3. CSG Leadership Council members will be provided 2 business days to respond electronically with their vote accepting or declining the proposed interim policy resolution.

4. CSG Leadership Council members may amend the proposed interim policy resolution. Such amendments will trigger an automatic 2 business days extension during which time the amended proposed interim policy resolution will be transmitted to all CSG Leadership Council members electronically and members asked to respond with their vote accepting or declining the amended proposed interim policy resolution.

5. At the discretion of the CSG Chair, the CSG Leadership Council may be convened via conference call to discuss the proposed or amended interim policy resolution.

6. No proposed or amended interim policy resolution may remain under consideration by the CSG Leadership Council for longer than 5 business days following initial transmission to CSG Leadership Council members. Such items will be removed from the CSG Leadership Council’s consideration.

7. A majority vote (50% + 1) of all CSG Leadership Council members is required to endorse a proposed or amended interim policy resolution.

8. Upon the CSG Leadership Council’s acceptance of the proposed or amended interim policy resolution, CSG staff will, within 2 business days, take the following actions: 1) notify the sponsor(s) of the interim policy resolution; 2) notify members of the CSG Executive Committee and the CSG Leadership Council; and 3) post the approved interim policy resolution on CSG’s websites. Such items will be labeled “interim” and will list the membership of the CSG Leadership Council.

9. Upon the CSG Leadership Council’s declination of the proposed or amended interim policy resolution, CSG staff will, within 2 business days: 1) notify the sponsor(s) of the interim policy resolution; and 2) notify members of the CSG Leadership Council.

10. All interim policy resolutions adopted by the CSG Leadership Council will automatically sunset at the next meeting of the CSG Executive Committee unless approved by the CSG Executive Committee.

CSG Staff Contacts

For additional information on the CSG policymaking process, please contact John Mountjoy, CSG Director of Policy & Research at (859) 244-8256 or jmountjoy@csg.org. For additional information on CSG’s parliamentary and quorum requirements, please contact Jason Moseley, CSG General Counsel at (859) 244-8145 or jmoseley@csg.org.