

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA JUNE 1-15 PART I

06/01/2011

VOTE ON SC ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION BILL PUT OFF A DAY

VO: 28

As the legislative session drew near to a close, South Carolina senators decided Tuesday to postpone voting on a bill that would require officers to try to check suspects' immigration status. Senators must decide whether to further amend or accept legislation the House approved last week. They'll likely take it up Wednesday. Sen. Larry Martin_R-Pickens, said he'll ask senators to approve some minor wording changes, as well as possible changes to put South Carolina's existing law in line with a federal ruling. A panel he leads was set to meet Tuesday on the amendments. The director of the state's labor agency was also expected to testify about last week's U.S. Supreme Court decision on illegal immigration. But the meeting had to be rescheduled as debate continued on the Senate floor.

HISPANICS NOW THE MAJORITY IN 28 MAJOR U.S. CITIES

VO: 22

Hispanics now make up the majority of the population in 28 U.S. cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants, most of them located in California, Texas, Florida and New Jersey. That was revealed Tuesday by statisticians of the Census Bureau during a telephonic press conference that analyzed the latest demographic data for the Latino population, which in the last decade grew four times more than the country's population as a whole. Though the number of Hispanics has increased nationwide since the year 2000, more than half remain concentrated in three states: California with 27.8 percent, Texas with 18.7 percent, and Florida with 8.4 percent. In East Los Angeles, 97 percent of the population is Latino, a percentage surpassed only by Puerto Rico , where 99 percent of citizens are Hispanic.

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06/03/2011

ALABAMA LEGISLATURE PASSES ARIZONA-STYLE IMMIGRATION BILL

VO: 28

A person without valid federal alien registration or other proof of legal presence in the United States would, just for being in Alabama, be guilty of a crime, under a bill passed Thursday by the Legislature. The crime, "willful failure to complete or carry an alien registration document," would be punishable by a \$100 fine and 30 days in jail. The Senate voted 25-7 and the House of Representatives voted 67-29 for the plan, House Bill 56. Supporters said it was similar to a tough immigration law passed by Arizona last year. The bill will become law if Gov. Robert Bentley signs it. The bill also would make it a crime for a person who is an unauthorized alien to "knowingly apply for work, solicit work in a public or private place or perform work as an employee or independent contractor" in Alabama. That crime would be punishable by a fine of not more than \$500. "This is a jobs bill. We have a problem with an illegal workforce that displaces Alabama workers. We need to put those people back to work. That's the No. 1 priority," said Sen. Scott Beason, R-Gardendale, who pushed hard for the bill.

ALABAMA BUDGETS WAIT WHILE IMMIGRATION, REDISTRICTING PASS

VO: 23

The Alabama Legislature passed an Arizona-style immigration law and approved new congressional districts on its next-to-last meeting day, but the state budgets won't be completed until the final day next week. The House and Senate agreed on an immigration bill Thursday that requires all businesses to verify the legal status of their new employees, and they approved new congressional districts that protect all seven incumbents. Both bills go to the governor. The Senate approved the governor's recommended changes to the General Fund budget, including increasing funding for Medicaid, but the House never got to it. Neither chamber considered the governor's recommended changes to the education budget. They will both wait until the final day June 9. Copyright 2011 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

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06/06/2011

HEALTH E-COLI

VO: 24

German scientists were working on Monday to confirm an organic vegetable farm as the source of an outbreak of E.coli bacteria that has already killed 22 people and caused a food scare across Europe. The relief in Germany that investigators had found a possible source of the killer bacteria -- ironically in bean sprouts, eaten by many as "health food" -- was tempered by reports of mounting losses for vegetable farmers and retailers across Europe caused by three weeks of panic.

EU--CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES-EUROPE

VO: 24

German officials say initial tests show that sprouts from an organic farm in the country's north are not the cause of the E. coli outbreak. Lower-Saxony state's agriculture ministry said Monday that 23 of 40 samples from the sprout farm suspected of being behind the outbreak have tested negative for the relevant bacteria. It said further tests are pending. The E. coli outbreak in Germany has killed at least 22 people and sickened more than 2,300 across Europe, leaving customers uneasy about eating raw vegetables.

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06/07/2011

ARIZONA'S ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS STRESSING PRISONS, LEGAL SYSTEM

VO: 23

They shuffle into the courtroom in shackles, still wearing the dust-covered clothes and shoes from when they crossed the desert into the U.S. from Mexico. The 70 illegal immigrants, mostly men and mostly in their 20s and 30s, fill the 16-seat jury box and seven rows of wooden benches normally reserved for the public in Tucson's gleaming federal courthouse. The courtroom is expansive, with a regally high ceiling, and is filled with the pungent smell of dried sweat. In only an hour or so, the dozens of immigrants will agree to plead guilty and be sentenced in a process that could play out for months for most federal defendants. The scene offers a window into a federal immigration enforcement effort that is pushing the

limits of the U.S. justice system, overwhelming federal judges and escalating the ranks of Latinos sent to prison.

IMMIGRATION PROGRAM IS REJECTED BY THIRD STATE

VO: 25

Gov. Deval Patrick of Massachusetts has decided the state will not participate in a fingerprint-sharing program that is central to the Obama administration's immigration enforcement strategy, dealing a new political blow to a program that has met rising resistance nationwide.

Massachusetts is the third state to pull out of the program, called Secure Communities, after Gov. Pat Quinn canceled it in Illinois in May and Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo suspended New York's participation last week. All three are Democrats from states with large immigrant populations, and they are close allies of President Obama, including on immigration issues.

SUPREME COURT RULING ON CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT TUITION RATES COULD AFFECT OTHER STATES' POLICIES

VO: 28

Supporters of the controversial new Maryland law to extend in-state tuition discounts to illegal immigrants cheered the Supreme Court's refusal Monday to take up a challenge to a similar law in California. Advocates for undocumented students in Maryland said the high court's action reinforced their position that the state was on solid legal footing when it approved the law, and suggested it would make it harder for opponents to challenge the measure in court. "Opponents for a long time painted this issue as unconstitutional and said that we were violating federal law," said state Sen. Victor Ramirez, the Prince George's County Democrat who sponsored the legislation. "And they were wrong."

IS TEXTING SAFER THAN TALKING ON A CELLPHONE?

VO: 27

It is the first thing she does in the morning and the last thing she does at night. It continues in class when the teacher isn't looking and even in the middle of a busy downtown street. Nothing - including a reporter's pesky questions - are enough to slow Johnetta Parker's thumbs from firing off text messages on her cellphone. "I send around 1,300 texts a day," the 15-year-old giggled outside the clothing store Forever 21 with two of her friends. "As soon as I open my eyes, before I brush my teeth, I check my phone and send a text to one of my friends." Is Johnetta at an increased risk of rare forms of brain cancer because of her heavy cellphone use? Or

is her habit of texting instead of talking keeping her out of harm's way? A World Health Organization study released last week suggested a possible link between cellphone use and cancer, but early news reports didn't differentiate between talking and texting. In fact, said Dr. Jonathan Samet, the chairman of the WHO advisory panel, when it comes to cellphones, it may be considerably safer to text than talk.

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06/08/2011

DEBIT CARD FEES

VO: 22

Consumers are caught in the middle of a fight between financial institutions and merchants as the Senate approaches a showdown vote over whether to block the Federal Reserve from capping fees that stores pay banks every time a shopper swipes a debit card. The vote, scheduled for Wednesday, is the climax of a long, expensive lobbying battle between two industries that lawmakers hate to cross because of their influence back home and their campaign contributions. "Those are folks who have a lot of presence in all our states," said Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., who added he was undecided. He said, "This is one of those where people have friends on both sides." At stake is whether to slash the \$16 billion the Fed says merchants pay banks and credit card companies for the 38 billion times consumers use debit cards annually. The Fed says the fees currently average about 44 cents per swipe, which under a proposal the central bank unveiled last year would be capped at 12 cents per transaction.

MEDIA CONSUMPTION-YOUTH

VO:18

A new Northwestern University study says minority young people spend more than half their day consuming media content at a rate that's 4.5 hours greater than their white counterparts. The "Children, Media and Race: Media Use Among White, Black, Hispanic and Asian American Children" report released Wednesday says television remains king among all young people.

BABIES SUN EXPOSURE CANCER RISK

VO: 22

As summer kicks into high gear and families spend more time outdoors, there is a renewed warning for parents. Sun exposure is especially dangerous for newborns and toddlers. It's because they haven't developed enough layers of natural protection against the summer sun. That's according to a report in the July issue of Pediatrics. Sun-related changes in skin that occur during a baby's first year could lead to skin cancer later in life. The American Academy of Pediatrics advises parents to keep children six months or younger out of the sun completely. Older babies should be protected with high S-P-F sun screen and wide-brimmed hats.

ACTIVE VIDEO GAMES MAY BE BETTER FOR KIDS' WEIGHT

VO: 20

Overweight kids might benefit from swapping their traditional video games for "active" ones that get them off the couch, a new study suggests. The study, of 322 overweight 10- to 14-year-olds, found that those whose usual, sedentary video games were partly replaced with active games gained less weight over six months.

MINORITIES SEE BOTTLED WATER AS SAFER, BUY MORE

VO: 20

Poor minority parents are spending a sizeable chunk of their income on bottled water based on unfounded beliefs that it's safer, researchers say. A poll of 632 parents visiting an emergency department in Milwaukee showed black and Hispanic kids were three times as likely to drink only bottled water at home compared to their white peers.

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06/09/2011

REPORT DOCUMENTS DRAMATIC SHIFT IN IMMIGRANT WORKFORCE'S SKILL LEVEL

VO: 20

Highly skilled temporary and permanent immigrants in the United States now outnumber lower-skilled ones, marking a dramatic shift in the foreign-born workforce that could have profound political and economic implications in the national debate over immigration. This shift in America's immigration population, based on census data, is summarized in a report released Thursday by the Brookings Institution. It found that 30 percent of the country's working-age immigrants, regardless of legal status, have at

least a bachelor's degree, while 28 percent lack a high school diploma. The shift had been in the works for the past three decades, a period that has seen a dramatic increase in the population born outside the United States. But in 2007 the percentage of highly skilled workers overtook that of lower-skilled workers.

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06/10/2011

ALABAMA SCHOOLS TO CHECK IF STUDENTS IN US LEGAL

VO:25

Alabama schools will soon have to check if students are in the country legally and people stopped for any reason could be arrested on suspicion of immigration violations under a sweeping law being called the nation's most restrictive against illegal immigration. Advocacy groups promised to challenge the sweeping measure signed by Gov. Robert Bentley on Thursday, which they call even more severe than the one in Arizona that is being challenged in court. In addition, it requires all businesses to check the legal status of workers using a federal system called E-Verify and makes it a crime to knowingly give an illegal immigrant a ride. "It is clearly unconstitutional. It's mean-spirited, racist, and we think a court will enjoin it," said Mary Bauer, legal director for the Southern Poverty Law Center.

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06/13/2011

MEDICARE DRUGS

VO: 28

Researchers say seniors with Medicare prescription drug coverage are facing steep copays for the newest kind of cancer drugs. Unlike older drugs, the medications come as pills and do not have to be administered at a clinic. But a recent study finds that about 1 in 6 people with Medicare aren't filling their prescriptions. Forty-six percent of Medicare beneficiaries faced copayments of more than \$500.

TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA REPORT 13 E.COLI CASES, 1 DEATH

VO: 20

An outbreak of E.coli cases in northeastern Tennessee and southwestern Virginia has sickened 13 people and resulted in the death of a young child, public health officials said on Friday. Virginia has two confirmed cases of the E.coli strain O157:H7, which can cause severe illness -- particularly in young children and the elderly. The same strain caused a 1993 E.coli outbreak that killed four people who ate tainted hamburgers from the Jack in the Box fast-food chain. Both Virginia cases affected children who had close contact with each other, and one of those children died, said Maureen Dempsey, a Virginia Public Health Department deputy chief. Dempsey declined to confirm the age and sex of each of the children, but local media reported a 2-year-old girl from Dryden, Virginia, died on Sunday and her brother, who was also infected, was released from a hospital a few days later.

IS SEX ADDICTION REAL ?

VO: 25

Embattled New York Rep. Anthony Weiner says he is on a quest to redeem himself. One of his first steps toward redemption is seeking treatment, but therapists disagree over whether Weiner is really suffering from an illness like sex addiction or an inflated ego. "I've made some pretty serious mistakes and I need to redeem myself and I'm working hard to try to get back to normal," said Weiner, a Democrat. Weiner's decision to seek help did not give him a reprieve from the growing scandal. Top Democrats continue to call for his resignation and TMZ released new photos showing Weiner posing provocatively at the Congressional members-only gym. For some, the lack of judgment among politicians is breathtaking and anger inducing: keeping a mistress in your home like former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, pursuing an intern in the Oval Office like former president Bill Clinton, and sending lewd pictures of yourself online like Weiner. Clinton once suggested ego was responsible for his infidelity.

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06/14/2011

REPORT FINDS FUNDING THREAT TO MENTAL ILLNESS DRUGS

VO: 27

European neuroscientists said on Tuesday that the withdrawal by some big drugmakers from research into illnesses like depression, schizophrenia and Alzheimer's could halt the discovery of new drugs. A report published by the

European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) said brain diseases and mental disorders like depression, dementia and addiction account for more a third of the burden of disease in Europe, but public and corporate research and development (R&D) funding is being cut.

ER CROWDING TIED TO HIGHER DEATH RATES

VO: 25

Rerouting ambulances away from overcrowded emergency rooms may be costing patients their lives, U.S. researchers say. For patients with heart attack, high levels of rerouting are tied to a three percent higher risk of death, they report in the Journal of the American Medical Association. "For every hundred patients there are three avoidable deaths," said Dr. Renee Hsia, an emergency physician at the University of California, San Francisco, who led the study.

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06/15/2011

FAST AND FURIOUS HEARING

VO: 33

Hearing "Operation Fast and Furious: Reckless Decisions, Tragic Outcomes" will examine the tragic consequences of Operation Fast and Furious, started by the ATF in the fall of 2009. In Fast and Furious, ATF encouraged gun store owners to sell weapons to straw buyers suspected of working on behalf of Mexican drug cartels. ATF allowed known criminals to purchase guns and traffic them into Mexico. Operation Fast and Furious has been linked to deaths and other crimes in both the U.S. and Mexico, including the December 2010 killing of U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry.