



1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 600
Alexandria, VA 22314
202 580 6544
leif@ksefocus.com
www.ksefocus.com

26 State Street, Suite 8
Montpelier, VT 05602-2943
802 229 4900
kse@ksepartners.com
www.ksepartners.com

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Overview

New Mexico Republican Gov. Susana Martinez will ask lawmakers to reinstate the death penalty during an upcoming special session to address budget issues, the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) reports. Citing the killing of Hatch Police Department Officer Jose Chavez and the kidnapping and murder of 11-year-old Ashlyne Mike in May, Governor Martinez had previously said that she would support capital punishment legislation during the next session. Martinez has also indicated that she will ask lawmakers to reconsider a “three-strikes” law that would send more violent repeat offenders to prison for life terms. New Mexico abolished the death penalty in 2009 when former Democratic Gov. Bill Richardson approved [HB 285/Chapter 11](#). Democratic legislators, who hold a 24-18 advantage in the Senate but are outnumbered in the House by a margin of 37-33, have expressed reluctance to consider death penalty legislation during the special session. The state faces a budget deficit of approximately \$220 million from the last fiscal year and a projected shortfall of \$430 million for the current fiscal year. Martinez has not yet announced a date for the special session.

West Virginia adjourned a brief special session on September 20, the [Daily Journal](#) reports. The scope of the session was limited to the appropriation of funds to cover the state’s share of repair costs related to flooding in June that caused more than \$300 million in damage and claimed 23 lives. A proclamation from Democratic Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin’s office authorizing the session can be found [here](#). [HB 201](#), which appropriates a total of \$85 million to cover the maximum possible state share of repair costs, was approved by Governor Tomblin on September 19.

Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are in regular session. The **District of Columbia** Council and the **U.S.** Congress are also in regular session.

Ohio is in recess until September 27. **Illinois** is in recess until November 15 and is expected to convene a veto session on that day. **California** is in final recess until November 30 and is scheduled to adjourn sine die on that day; the legislature will convene its 2017 legislative session on December 5.

West Virginia adjourned a special session related to flood repair costs on September 19.

California Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown and **Rhode Island** Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo have until September 30 to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Alaska** Independent Gov. Bill Walker has 20 days from presentment, Sundays excluded, to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Delaware** Democratic Gov. Jack Markell and **New York** Democratic Gov. Andrew



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Cuomo have 10 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Illinois** Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner has 60 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature.

The following states are currently holding interim committee hearings: [Alabama](#), [Alaska](#), [Arizona](#), [Arkansas](#), [Colorado](#), [Connecticut](#), [Georgia House](#) and [Senate](#), [Hawaii](#), [Idaho](#), [Indiana](#), [Iowa](#), [Louisiana](#), [Kansas](#), [Kentucky](#), [Maine](#), [Maryland](#), [Minnesota](#), [Mississippi House](#) and [Senate](#), [Missouri House](#) and [Senate](#), [Montana](#), [Nebraska](#), [Nevada](#), [New Hampshire House](#) and [Senate](#) (committee hearings published in calendar), [New York Assembly](#) and [Senate](#), [North Carolina](#), [North Dakota](#), [Oklahoma House](#) and [Senate](#), [Oregon](#), [South Carolina](#), [Tennessee](#), the [Texas House](#), [Senate](#) and [Joint](#), [Utah](#), [Vermont](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#), [West Virginia](#) and [Wyoming](#).

The following states are currently posting bill draft requests/prefiles for the 2017 session: [Alabama House](#) and [Senate](#), [Colorado](#), [Florida Senate](#), [Kentucky](#), [Montana](#), [Nevada](#), [New Hampshire](#), [North Dakota](#), [Oklahoma House](#) and [Senate](#), [Utah](#), [Virginia](#) and [Wyoming](#) (draft requests appear on individual committee pages).

Abstractors & Agents

No new or relevant action to report on this week

Foreclosure

Illinois [HB 4363](#) has been scheduled for a September 28 hearing in the House Revenue and Finance Committee. This bill would allow a taxing body or representative of a taxing body to file a vacancy fraud complaint with the county board of review if the property is receiving vacancy relief and the property owner is not actively attempting to lease, sell or alter the property. It would also set factors for determining whether or not vacancy fraud has occurred and would set penalties.

Pennsylvania [HB 1954](#) was considered at a September 21 hearing in the House Urban Affairs Committee. No additional information has been made available at this time. The bill would create the Vacant and Abandoned Real Estate Foreclosure Act. The bill would set forth when a property could be certified as vacant and abandoned after a creditor gives notice of default or initiates a foreclosure action or action for possession or to quiet title. After a property is certified as vacant and abandoned, the property would not be subject to mediation, conciliation, diversion or other program established by a local court to encourage resolution of owner-occupied residential mortgage foreclosures. Certified properties would be subject to an accelerated sheriff's sale.

Mortgage

New Jersey [SB 2401](#) and identical companion bill [AB 1973](#) have been scheduled for a September 26 hearing in the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. The bills would prohibit any individual or business entity from engaging or providing real estate appraisal management services, or advertising or



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holding oneself or the business entity out as engaging in or conducting business as an appraisal management company, without being registered with the state Real Estate Appraiser Board.

Title Insurance

No new or relevant action to report on this week