

July 1 to usher in new laws

Additions cover subjects from chili sauce to classroom control

The law of the land

Here is a sample of unusual or significant laws going into effect this summer.

Washington outlaws lying by politicians in campaign ads. It also calls for creation of a registry of insurance claims that should be payable to Holocaust victims or their relatives.

Idaho rescinds \$1,000 limit on awards for charity rubber duck races.

Vermont allows needle exchange programs for the first time.

New Hampshire becomes last state to grant Martin Luther King Jr. a permanent holiday and also allows homosexuals to adopt children.

South Carolina officially legalizes interracial marriages. It also outlaws the sale of urine and declares the spotted salamander the official state creature.

Florida allows sheriffs to sell stray livestock to nearest auction to recoup cost of capturing it.

Tennessee and Indiana require parental consent for body piercing of young people.

Georgia allows breastfeeding a baby in public, provided the mother "acts in a discreet and modest way."

Louisiana makes it law for children in kindergarten through fifth grade to address their teachers with a courtesy title such as "sir" or "ma'am."

New Mexico comes up with an official state question: "Red or Green?" The query is to determine which type of chili sauce diners prefer.

Utah protects Good Samaritans from being sued for damages done while they use a defibrillator to jump start heart attack victims. Also raises marriage age to 16 and legalizes domesticated elk hunting, with some restrictions.

AP — You can hula till you drop in Hawaii, but you will need Mom and Dad's permission to have your navel pierced in Tennessee. And do not talk back to your teachers in Louisiana or you may be breaking the law.

New laws passed in states around the country — many of which take effect with the new fiscal year July 1 — regulate everything from chili sauce to rubber duck races. A spate of new ordinances focuses on reining in teenagers.

Teens caught smoking in South Dakota starting Thursday can be fined once for every cigarette they light up, as can the merchant who sold them the pack. Louisiana passed a law that makes students in kindergarten through fifth grade address teachers with a courtesy title such as "sir" or "ma'am."

raised to 16 from 14, and in Florida, a new law calls for teen-age girls to wait up to 48 hours for an abortion to allow doctors time to notify their parents. Indiana and Tennessee enacted legislation that requires consent for body piercing.

"Looking at it on a broader scale, I think there is an issue of protecting kids from themselves and keeping parents in control," Stephanie Wilson, who monitors state laws at the National Conference of State Legislatures, said.

She said that in the wake of shootings at Columbine High School and other schools, a

national trend toward closer monitoring of teens will continue. "Columbine was a huge shock to everyone," she said. "I think parents really do feel a loss of control."

Many states have taken steps to try to protect children in school.

In Alabama, teachers with unsupervised access to students must now be fingerprinted and undergo background checks. A new law allows school districts in Nevada to hire a chief of school police. In Maryland, students who plant bombs or make bomb threats can lose their drivers licenses.

Of course, not all laws involve children. Raised penalties for and for driving under the influence, and some raise "sin taxes" on cigarettes. Several passed legalizing awards given in a state in the country.

New Hampshire allowing homosexual children and also been state in the country.

South Carolina partitioning off legalizing marriage. A state ban enforced for decades. In Idaho, lawmakers a \$1,000 limit on prize can be awarded in duck races. The dumping rubber ducks and seeing which one finish line first.

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— Stephanie Wilson
National Conference of State Legislatures

Officials criticize Clinton drug plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — At "very little" cost to taxpayers, all 39 million Americans covered by Medicare could get prescription drug benefits without bankrupting the program, administration officials said Sunday in previewing President Clinton's reform package.

But even before he announces details tomorrow, lawmakers from both parties said the plan was too ambitious, and they urged limiting the new drug coverage to the working poor.

The elderly and disabled in the Medicare program who want the prescription coverage will have to pay for it, said Donna Shalala, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. The poor would get help buying medicine.

"This isn't about just adding some new, lush benefit," Shalala said on CBS' "Face the Nation," noting that half the people in rural areas do not have drug coverage. "This is critical to health care."

Gene Sperling, chair of the National Economic Council, said in CNN's "Late Edition" that the expanded prescription coverage would "cost very little" because of proposed savings through streamlining and strengthened competition.

The president, Sperling said, "is going to show a bit of political guts in coming forward with such a detailed plan."

But on Capitol Hill, there was skepticism Clinton could save Medicare from bankruptcy and introduce a significant new benefit program.

Sen. Phil Gramm, chair of the

Senate Banking Committee, said two-thirds of Medicare recipients already have prescription coverage, either through the Medicaid program for the poor or through private Medigap policies. That leaves about 15 million beneficiaries with no coverage.

"I don't understand why we would want to drive those private programs out and substitute a government program for it," Gramm, R-Texas, said on CBS.

It is "the working poor, the poorest of the poor not on Medicaid, who don't have it, and we ought to work that out some way," Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Republican leaders generally have supported the idea of providing government-subsidized drug benefits only for those near the poverty level.

The administration argues many Medigap policies are a major financial burden for the elderly, averaging about \$90 a month and including a \$250 deductible.

Clinton's plan would require smaller premiums and might pay about half the cost of prescriptions, up to perhaps \$3,000 to \$5,000 a year.

Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., whose state's senior population strongly supports cheaper drug prices, said on CBS that this could be accomplished by making Medicare more efficient and by cutting fraud and waste, which he said still accounts for about 10 percent of Medicare spending.

Other Democrats were less optimistic.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said the way to save Medicare from insolvency in the next decade "is not to load it up with another big costly benefit that nobody pays for even though everybody wants it."

Medical experts predict future blood shortage

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans take for granted they will get a blood transfusion when they need one, but soon, that may not be the case: Blood donations are dropping so low that serious, nationwide shortages could hit as early as next year.

The government is so concerned that Surgeon General David Satcher has a committee hunting ways to get more people to donate blood more often, studying such incentives as giving donors time away from work or small rewards like T-shirts.

And some blood banks have started creative programs to lure donors — one in Iowa even gives puppet shows and science demonstrations to school students, grooming them to donate as soon as they turn 17.

"We operate on a very thin margin of safety for the blood supply, and if that trend continues, it would put us in a year-round shortage in a few years," Dr. Arthur Caplan of the University of Penn-

sylvania, who heads a federal committee on blood issues, said.

The National Blood Data Resource Center is more pessimistic: Its studies predict next year, Americans will donate just under 11.7 million units of blood — but that hospitals will need 11.9 million units.

Blood donations are decreasing about 1 percent a year. Demand for blood is increasing 1 percent a year.

Already, some cities routinely experience temporary blood shortages during holidays like the Fourth of July weekend and the summer, when regular blood donors go on vacation.

"When you need surgery, when you need cancer treatment, when a woman gives birth — we all assume the blood will be there," Caplan said. "You can't make that assumption anymore."

Blood banks say younger generations have never shown the enthusiasm of post-World War II donors. About 60 percent of Americans are estimated to be eligible donors, but only 5 percent donate.

'T' time



Rap artist Ice T performs Saturday in Houston as part of this year's Vans Warped Tour. The tour, which began in San Antonio, will travel the United States this summer. It is the nation's largest travelling music tour, combining music with extreme sports such as skateboarding.

Peace efforts, aftermath costing billions

Reconstruction, troop deployment test military budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — Waging war with \$2 million missiles can run up quite a tab. So can preserving peace.

NATO's 78-day air campaign against Yugoslavia cost the United States as much as \$4 billion, according to private and congressional estimates.

Annual peacekeeping and reconstruction expenses are expected to run nearly as high — and that assumes the United States will honor President Clinton's pledge that "not a penny" will go to rebuild Serbia's roads and bridges while Yugoslavia President Slobodan Milosevic remains in power.

The U.S. military contributed to the NATO force more than 725 aircraft, a variety of artillery, multiple-launch rocket systems and about 5,500 supporting Army troops. Clinton called up about 5,000 reservists.

U.S. aircraft flew 2,300 missions in the 11 weeks of airstrikes. U.S. Navy ships fired about 450 Tomahawk cruise missiles, at a price of about \$1 million a missile. U.S. Air Force B-52 bombers launched 90 air-launched cruise missiles, which cost about \$2 million apiece.

The Pentagon has not put a price on these deployments or on replacing the munitions they consumed. An independent research organization has: \$2.3 billion to \$4 billion, according to the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

The costs are difficult to estimate because the Pentagon has not given details on how many munitions other than cruise missiles were used.

Further, the Pentagon plans to upgrade, rather than replace, some of the cruise missiles and other munitions while also increasing stockpiles, center analyst Elizabeth Heeter said.

In late May, President Clinton signed an emergency spending bill that set aside about \$5 billion for the airstrikes through Sept. 30, if necessary.

With the fighting over and warplanes headed home, the administration hopes to use as much of the remaining money as possible — about \$2 billion by some estimates — to pay for peacekeeping in Kosovo, a province of Yugoslavia's dominant republic Serbia.

Tending to the peace in Kosovo is expected to run \$2 billion to \$3.5 billion annually, not including reconstruction costs, the center says. The international force of 50,000 peacekeepers includes 7,000 U.S. troops to help resettle and protect ethnic Albanian refugees.

White House Chief of Staff John Podesta said U.S. peacekeepers will be needed indefinitely.

U.S. peacekeepers in a second Balkans hot spot, Bosnia, have cost more than \$9 billion. About 6,700 U.S. troops remain in Bosnia, down from a peak of more than 22,000. They are helping to implement the 1995 U.S.-brokered Dayton peace agreement that ended three years of fighting by the country's Serbs, Muslims and Croats.

For Kosovo, the administration and congressional leaders insist the bulk of Western reconstruction aid must come from Europe.

Without waiting for the administration to request a U.S. share, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to provide \$535 million for postwar Balkan reconstruction. Kosovo would receive \$150 million, but the rest of Serbia would get nothing.

Lawmakers want the United States to provide about 20 percent of total costs, said Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., chair of the Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations and author of the reconstruction plan. The Senate could take up the measure this week.

The European Commission, administrative arm of the 15-nation European Union, has estimated the cost of rebuilding Kosovo at \$7 billion for the first three years. It plans to spend up to \$722 million on reconstruction during each of the next three years.

The cost of war

According to private and congressional estimates, NATO's 78-day air campaign against Yugoslavia cost the United States as much as \$4 billion. Here is a look at the cost of U.S. contingency operations since 1991.

Bosnia*	\$9.43 billion
Iraq**	\$7.08 billion
Kosovo	\$4.00 billion
Somalia	\$1.52 billion
Haiti	\$1.04 billion
Other	\$2.03 billion

*Includes funding for operations in only two parts of the former Yugoslavia.
**Does not include funding for Desert Storm.

Source: Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments