

Movement to Close the Coverage Gap

Governor Steve Bullock (D) is strongly supportive of closing the coverage gap. A recently introduced bill with 12 House Republican and 8 Senate Republican co-sponsors by a Republican senator may hold the best chance for compromise this legislative session.

A Republican-sponsored bill to close the coverage gap passed through a key committee in Nebraska's unicameral legislature, and will be heard on the floor sometime in April. There is bipartisan support in the legislature for closing the coverage gap.

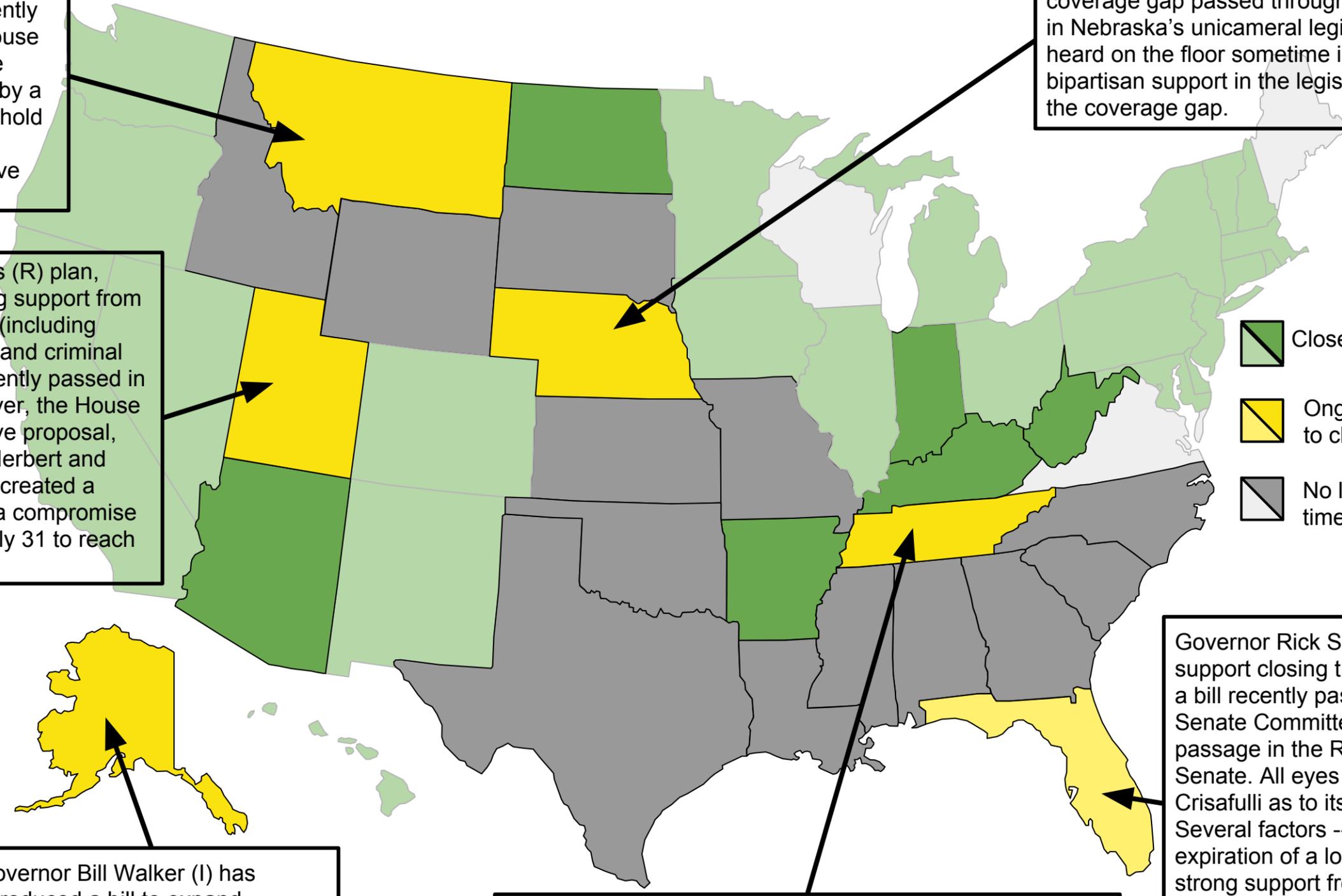
Governor Gary Herbert's (R) plan, Healthy Utah, has strong support from key stakeholder groups (including hospital, business, faith and criminal justice groups), and recently passed in the Utah Senate. However, the House has passed an alternative proposal, Utah Cares. Governor Herbert and legislative leaders have created a committee to negotiate a compromise and set a deadline of July 31 to reach a deal.

-  Closed the coverage gap
-  Ongoing legislative action to close the gap
-  No legislative action at this time

Governor Bill Walker (I) has introduced a bill to expand Medicaid. The plan has support from the hospitals, however, it remains to be seen if the bill will have sufficient support in the legislature.

In late 2014, Governor Bill Haslam (R) announced he had reached a deal with federal officials to close the coverage gap. Governor Haslam's plan, Insure Tennessee, has strong support from business, hospitals and consumer groups. Insure Tennessee passed through the Senate Health Committee in March, and now pressure is on Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey to bring the bill to the Senate floor.

Governor Rick Scott (R) continues to support closing the coverage gap, and a bill recently passed through a key Senate Committee is headed for swift passage in the Republican-controlled Senate. All eyes will be on Speaker Crisafulli as to its fate in the House. Several factors -- including the expiration of a longstanding waiver and strong support from business and hospital associations -- could be game-changers in the upcoming months.



The states with a darker color saturation indicate that the state's electoral votes in the 2012 Presidential election went to the Republican candidate.