

Take A Look At What Is Happening In Colorado State Policy News During The 2016 Legislative Session

Axiom Newsletter



March 14, 2016

"Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river."

-Nikita Khrushchev

Days Til Sine Die: 58

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Tax plan a threat to Colorado jobs

Denver Post

It would be a major mistake for Colorado to start officially labeling countries like the Netherlands, Ireland and Singapore as tax havens and requiring companies that operate there to prove they are not trying to dodge state corporate income taxes. The extra bureaucratic burden would be bad enough for Colorado corporations operating abroad for wholly legitimate reasons, which is of course the norm. But such a policy would also raise a yellow flag to any company, foreign or domestic, contemplating an investment in Colorado. And yet House Bill 1275, which would send such a plan to voters this fall, passed the House on second reading Monday with strong support from the Democratic leadership.

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Hickenlooper, OEDIT director staying out of corporate tax-haven fight

Denver Business Journal

Of all the accomplishments Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper has gotten credit for over the past five years, maybe none have drawn so much bipartisan praise as his ability to recruit headquarters and regional hubs of Fortune 500 companies to the state.

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Health law fines double for many uninsured at tax time

The Durango Herald

Many people who went without health insurance last year are now seeing fines more than double under President Barack Obama's health care law, tax preparation company H&R Block said Tuesday.

Among its customers who owe a penalty for the 2015 tax year, the average fine is \$383, compared with \$172 for 2014, the company said.

Separately, among those who complied with the law and took advantage of its taxpayer-subsidized private health insurance, 6 in 10 are now having to pay back to the IRS some portion of their financial assistance. Those payments also are trending higher this year, averaging \$579, compared with \$530 last tax season.

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Weld County's employment growth fell from 1st to 331st in a year

Denver Post

Colorado's major counties, aside from Weld, showed respectable job gains in the third quarter of 2015, but the same can't be said of wage increases, according to a report Wednesday from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Weld County, where much of the state's oil and gas activity is concentrated, suffered a 1.3 percent decline in employment in the third quarter.

Only a year before that, in the third quarter of 2014, Weld led the country with a 8.8 percent rate of annual job growth. But like a driver who blows his engine after leading for most of the race, the county dropped back to 331st out of the nation's 343rd largest counties.

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Report: Colorado Better Than Washington At Tamping Down Pot Black Market

Colorado Public Radio

One argument for legalizing recreational marijuana has been to reduce the black market, and so far, Colorado and Washington have had very different experiences, according to editor Tom Wainwright at The Economist. He recently wrote about challenges for states after legalization, and has a new book about the multi-billion-dollar international drug trade called

"Narconomics: How to Run a Drug Cartel."

The book is timely, as Alaska is about to join Colorado, Washington and Oregon in opening recreational pot stores.

Wainwright found that in Colorado, about 70 percent of marijuana sales are licensed, while in Washington, it's about 30 percent:

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Colorado ski areas pay record \$23 million in federal rent KUSA

The money Colorado ski areas pay the federal government to operate on U.S. Forest Service land is drawing attention at the local level.

The Denver Post recorded Wednesday that 22 resorts paid a total of \$23 million in revenue-based permit fees for the 2014-15 season, up 11 percent from the previous season. It was the third record-setting season in a row.

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Gov. Hickenlooper signs bills into law Office of the Governor

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed these bills into law today.

Number	Title	Sponsors	Summary
SB16-004	Enactment Of 2015 CRS	Sen. Scott / Rep. Willett	Concerning the enactment of Colorado Revised Statutes 2015 as the positive and statutory law of the State of Colorado.
SB 16-009	Prohibit Referral Fees When Dividing Dental Fees	Sen. Grantham / Rep. Primavera	Concerning the sharing of professional dental fees.
SB 16-015	Rules for Allowed Marijuana Pesticides	Sen. Baumgardner / Rep. Vigil	Concerning a requirement that a governor-designated state agency clarify which pesticides may be used in the marijuana industry.
SB 16-020	Clarify Calculation Issues Of Auto Capital Funding	Sen. Sonnenberg / Rep. Becker K.	Concerning clarification of certain calculations of the automatic funding mechanism for payment of future costs attributable to certain of the State's capital assets.
HB 16-	Roadway	Reps. Winter &	Concerning authorization for the

1008	Shoulder Access for Buses	Becker, J. / Sens. Cooke & Heath	Department of Transportation to designate an area of roadway not otherwise laned for traffic for use by commercial vehicles designed to transport sixteen passengers or more that are operated by a governmental entity or government-owned business that transports the general public or by a contractor on behalf of such an entity or government-owned business.
HB 16-1049	Crowdfunding Escrow in Depository Institutions	Rep. Lee / Sens. Scheffel & Hill	Concerning an escrow account held by a depository institution on behalf of an issuer of an intrastate offering of securities.
HB 16-1053	Retail Hydrogen Fuel Systems Regulation	Rep. Kraft-Tharp / Sen. Hill	Concerning the regulation of retail hydrogen fuel systems for vehicles.
HB 16-1069	Allow City to Set Housing Authority Commissioner Term Length	Reps. Rankin & Moreno / Sen. Grantham	Concerning the ability of a city's governing body to determine the length of terms for its housing authority commissioners.
HB 16-1095	Health Insurance for Prescription Eye Drop Refills	Rep. McCann / Sen. Crowder	Concerning health insurance coverage for early refills of prescription eye drops.
HB 16-1253	Current Year Adjustments to School Finance	Rep. Hamner / Sen. Steadman	Concerning adjustments in the amount of total program funding for public schools for the 2015-16 budget year, and, in connection therewith, making and reducing an appropriation.
HB 16-1254	P.O.S.T. Board Training Persons with Disabilities	Rep. Young / Sen. Grantham	Concerning P.O.S.T. board training concerning wrongs to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Friday, March 11, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed these bills into law today.

Number	Title	Sponsors	Summary
HB 16-1041	Repeal Bonding Requirement Marijuana	Sen. Holbert / Rep. Lebsack	Concerning the removal of unreasonably impracticable

	Businesses		financial requirements applicable to marijuana businesses that are required to be licensed.
HB 16-1237	Supplemental Appropriation Dept of Agriculture	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Agriculture.
HB 16-1238	Supplemental Appropriation Dept of Corrections	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Corrections.
HB 16-1239	Supplemental Appropriation Office of the Governor, Lt. Governor, & OSPB	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and State Planning and Budgeting.
HB 16-1240	Supplemental Appropriation Dept Office of Health Care Policy & Finance	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.
HB 16-1242	Supplemental Appropriation Dept of Human Services	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Human Services.
HB 16-1243	Supplemental Appropriation Judicial Dept	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Judicial Department.
HB 16-1244	Supplemental Appropriation Dept of Law	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Law.
HB 16-1245	Supplemental Appropriation Dept of Military Affairs	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.
HB 16-1246	Supplemental Appropriation Dept of Personnel	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Personnel.
HB 16-1248	Supplemental Appropriation Dept of Public Safety	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Public Safety.
HB 16-1249	Supplemental Appropriation Dept of Regulatory Agencies	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Regulatory Agencies.
HB 16-1250	Supplemental Appropriation Dept of	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Department

HB 16-1251	Revenue Supplemental Appropriation Dept Of Treasury	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	of Revenue. Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Department of the Treasury.
HB 16-1252	Supplemental Appropriation Capital Construction	Sen. Lambert / Rep. Hamner	Concerning funding for Capital Construction, and making supplemental appropriations in connection therewith.

Gov. Hickenlooper announces Boards and Commissions appointments

Office of the Governor

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission investigates complaints and conducts hearings concerning alleged discrimination in employment, apprenticeship programs, on-the-job training, and vocational schools. The Commission also investigates the existence of discriminatory or unfair employment practices by a person, employment agency, labor organization, or vocational school. It is also charged with the promotion of good will and cooperation among various racial, religious, and ethnic groups in the state.

For a term expiring March 13, 2017:

- Miguel "Michael" Rene Elias of Pueblo West, to serve as a member of the community at large, and as a Republican, and occasioned by the resignation of Dulce Saenz of Denver, appointed;

For terms expiring March 13, 2020:

- Ulysses J. Chaney of Colorado Springs, to serve as a representative of state or local government entities, and as a Republican, appointed;
- Pankaj Sharma of Boulder, to serve as a representative of the community at large, and as an Unaffiliated, appointed.

The Private Occupational School Board advises on standards for educational services in private occupational schools. The Board also grants accreditation to schools that meet the standards established by the Board.

For a term expiring July 1, 2018:

- Timothy LeRoy Brooks of Thornton, to serve as a representative of the general public, and occasioned by the resignation of Jean L. Robinson of Denver, appointed.

The Colorado Lottery Commission governs the operation of the lottery and conducts hearings on granting or suspending licenses for lottery sales.

For a term expiring July 1, 2016:
Stella Peterson of Arvada, to serve as a member of the public and as a Republican, and
occasioned by the resignation of Frances Ann Koncilja of Littleton, appointed

The Calculator
House Bills Introduced: 359
Senate Bills Introduced: 154
Number of Bills Pl'd: 89
Bills Signed by the Governor: 24

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