

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

Axiom Newsletter



April 25, 2016

**When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it.
~Clarence Darrow~**

Days Til Sine Die: 16

[Visit Our Website](#)

17 years since Columbine High School massacre ABC Denver

Class is not in session at Columbine High School on Wednesday, which marks 17 years since one of the deadliest school shootings in U.S. history. Two teenagers carried out the Columbine attacks on April 20, 1999, a date forever ingrained into the minds of Littleton, Colorado, residents - and the entire nation. Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, killed 12 students and a teacher on that tragic day. They went on to injure 23 others before finally turning the guns on themselves.

[Click Here To Read Further](#)

Construction Defects/Affordable Housing Update

By Erin Goff

Construction defects reform stakeholders and affordable housing proponents have been working tirelessly for months to come to an agreement on a "package" of bills to address construction defects and affordable housing. House Speaker Dickey Lee Hullinghorst and Senate Majority Leader are the key legislative players in brokering a deal on this package. With two and a half weeks remaining in the 2016 legislative session, there is very little time left for negotiating. The deadline for these bills to drop is this Friday, April 29. We expect some, if not all of the following bills to be a part of the package:

Construction defects - informed consent. This bill contains two-thirds of SB 15-177 from last year. It requires that the board of a homeowners association (HOA) notify all members of the HOA and get consent from 50% plus one prior to instigating construction defects litigation on their behalf. If a package of bills is ultimately introduced, this bill will be a part of it, as it is the most important to the construction defects reform stakeholders. If there is no informed consent bill, there is no package.

Construction defects - study group. Initially pitched as legislation to create a construction defects court, this bill would instead create a study group to study construction defects legislation and make recommendations to the judicial department concerning rules the department could adopt to streamline and generally improve the construction defects litigation process. This too will definitely be part of the package.

Construction defects - insurance bill. Rumor has it the insurance industry is working on a bill to address concerns about the ability of the developers/builders to insure owner-occupied multi-family housing development. Something like this may or may not appear in the package.

Affordable housing - low income housing tax credit (LIHTC). The state low income housing tax credit will expire this year if not extended by the legislature. This bill will extend the LIHTC. It is very important to the affordable housing advocates and will definitely be introduced this session.

Affordable housing - unclaimed property trust fund. Also important to the affordable housing advocates is a dedicated revenue stream for affordable housing. This bill would dedicate a portion of the interest in on the unclaimed property trust fund to be used by the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority and the Colorado Division of Housing. It is a time-limited revenue stream, but a step in the right direction and will be part of the package.

Affordable housing - first time homebuyer tax credit. The Colorado Association of Realtors is behind the introduction of this bill which will allow first time homebuyers to save for a down payment in a fund similar to college savings account, with the same tax benefits.

Colorado's Fake Service Dog Bill

CBS Denver

There's a renewed effort to regulate what is and what is not a service dog, and pet owners who pretend their pet is a service dog could be fined.

Dog owners are passing off their pets as service dogs so they can take them into apartments or businesses that don't allow dogs. But when it comes to stopping it, even those with disabilities can't agree on what to do.

"Because she not the typical breed you see for service dogs, the questions have really gotten a lot worse," said service dog owner Christina Thomas.

[Click Here To Read Further](#)

[Time for a deal on sale of booze](#)

Denver Post Editorial

If voters approve a ballot initiative pushed by grocery stores allowing them to sell full-strength beer and wine at multiple locations, it's almost certain to undermine existing liquor stores - and maybe a lot of them quickly.

That's the spur that Sen. Pat Steadman, D-Denver, hopes will prod liquor stores into supporting a legislative compromise that gives grocery stores only some of what they want but enough so they pull the plug on their amendment.

[Click Here To Read Further](#)

[Charter revenue-sharing bill advances to Senate floor debate](#)

Chalkbeat Colorado

A bill requiring school districts to uniformly share some local revenues with their charter schools passed the Senate Education Committee on a 6-3 vote Thursday.

A companion measure containing various other law changes sought by charters passed by the same margin. Sen. Mike Johnston, D-Denver, joined all five committee Republicans in supporting both bills.

The two measures, Senate Bill 16-187 and Senate Bill 16-188, have resurfaced district-charter tensions that have flared and subsided since the state's charter law was passed in 1993.

[Click Here To Read Further](#)

[AG's office orders former HealthOP board members to quit use of name in campaign material](#)

Complete Colorado

The Colorado Attorneys General office has ordered a pro Amendment 69 group to stop using the now defunct Colorado HealthOP's name or likeness in literature aimed at persuading people to vote yes on the issue in the November election.

Amendment 69 would do away with the current Colorado Health Exchange and create a single-payer healthcare system that ColoradoCareYes calls "Medicare for all." It would not be restricted by the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) as it would be an enterprise fund.

Colorado would have the highest state income tax rate in the country at 14.63 percent if it passed.

[Click Here To Read Further](#)

[Bill to regulate fantasy sports advances](#)

Durango Herald

State lawmakers are debating whether to regulate so-called "fantasy contests," a sports craze

that has moved past friendly competitions between friends into a form of gambling. The underlying question is whether the contest is truly a game of skill, or chance. Fantasy contests allow participants to choose a team of players in a sport, and then compete against other such fantasy teams. As those players compete in real live sporting matches, points are earned and calculated.

[Click Here To Read Further](#)

Top statehouse Republicans divided over water-court bill, Owens' role

Denver Post

A river of acrimony over a seemingly minor piece of water legislation is dividing some of the state's top Republicans, some of whom accuse former Gov. Bill Owens of political meddling for money.

House Bill 1337 seeks to block new evidence in the appeals process of a state ruling on pumping from an aquifer.

[Click Here To Read Further](#)

OPINION: What The World Can Learn From Colorado's Marijuana Experience

Forbes

When the Canadian Parliament considered decriminalizing marijuana possession in 2003, U.S. officials loudly objected. They complained that the proposed reform would betray the anti-drug cause, worried that it would encourage drug tourism and facilitate marijuana smuggling, and threatened to respond with a border crackdown that would impede trade and travel between the two countries.

Canadian legislators got the message. The marijuana bill, which would have made possessing up to 15 grams (about half an ounce) of marijuana a civil offense punishable by a fine and reduced the penalties for home cultivation of up to seven plants, never got a vote. Thirteen years later, those reforms look timid compared to the laws approved by four U.S. states, which remove all penalties for possession and (in three states) home cultivation while allowing commercial production and distribution. Even the nation's capital lets adults 21 or older grow, possess, and share marijuana without penalties, although pot shops are on hold because of congressional objections. As Canada's new government proceeds with its plans to legalize marijuana, it is following America's example.

[Click Here To Read Further](#)

Gov. Hickenlooper announces appointment to Judicial Nomination Commission

Office of the Governor

Gov. John Hickenlooper announced today an appointment to the First Judicial Nominating Commission.

The First Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission selects nominees for district and

county judgeships in the first judicial district, which is comprised of Jefferson and Gilpin counties.

For a term expiring December 31, 2021:

- Lynn Hirshman of Black Hawk, to serve as a non-attorney and as a Democrat from Gilpin County, appointed.

The Fifth Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission select nominees for district and county judgeships in the fifth judicial district, which is comprised of Clear Creek, Eagle, Lake and Summit counties.

For a term expiring December 31, 2021:

- Michael H. Stewart, P.E., C.P.G. of Evergreen, to serve as a non-attorney and as an Unaffiliated from Clear Creek County, appointed.

Gov. Hickenlooper Signs Bills Into Law

Office of the Governor

Thursday, April 21, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed these bills into law today.

Number	Title	Sponsors	Summary
HB 16-1035	PUC Approval Of Securities Only for Gas & Electric	Rep. Leonard / Sen. Scott	Concerning the scope of statutes making the issuance of securities by a public utility conditional on approval by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, and, in connection therewith, clarifying that the approval requirement applies only to electric and gas utilities.
HB 16-1060	Colorado State Patrol Roadside Memorial	Rep. Tyler / Sen. Baumgardner	Concerning roadside memorials for fallen state patrol officers.
HB 16-1093	Election List Maintenance Procedures	Reps. Ransom & Ryden / Sen. Tate	Concerning the use of the national change of address database to maintain voter registration records, and, in connection therewith, clarifying terminology and consolidating procedures for county clerks and recorders to follow when it appears that an elector has moved within the state.
HB 16-	Summons in Lieu	Rep. Roupe /	Concerning the issuance of a summons

1104	of Warrant For Non-Violent Crimes	Sen. Cooke	in lieu of a warrant for certain nonviolent offenders.
HB 16-1109	Application of State Water Law To Federal Agencies	Reps. Becker J. & Becker K. / Sens. Sonnenberg & Donovan	Concerning limits that the basic tenets of Colorado water law place on the ability of certain federal agencies to impose conditions on a water right owner in exchange for permission to use federal land.
HB 16-1141	Radon Exposure In Buildings	Reps. Becker K. & Coram / Sens. Jahn & Roberts	Concerning the protection of Colorado residents from the hazards associated with naturally occurring radioactive materials in buildings, and in connection therewith, making an appropriation.
HB 16-1198	Computer Courses Fulfill Graduation Requirements	Reps. Pabon & Wilson / Sens. Tate & Kerr	Concerning computer science courses fulfilling certain graduation requirements.
HB 16-1215	Purposes Of Parole	Reps. McCann & Kagan / Sen. Guzman	Concerning changing the statutory purposes of parole to successfully reintegrate parolees into society by providing enhanced supportive services.
HB 16-1255	Manage Forests To Improve Water Supply Conditions	Reps. Coram & Vigil / Sen. Baumgardner	Concerning additional methods to manage forests to secure favorable conditions for water supply.
HB 16-1259	Changes To Local District College Statutes	Reps. Mitsch Bush & Wilson / Sens. Cooke & Donovan	Concerning local district junior colleges, and, in connection therewith, changing the term local district junior college to local district college.
HB 16-1270	Security Interest Owner's Interest In Bus Entity	Rep. Lee / Sens. Scheffel & Heath	Concerning the limitation of laws governing security interests to an owner's interest in a business entity.
HB 16-1271	Limited Winery Direct Delivery Personal Consumers	Reps. Singer & Nordberg / Sens. Jahn & Lundberg	Concerning the ability of a limited winery that has a winery direct shipper's permit to deliver vinous liquors of its own manufacture directly to a personal consumer without the use of a common carrier.

HB 16-1316	Change Venue In Out-Of-Home Placement	Rep. Rosenthal / Sen. Cooke	Concerning the procedures for changing venue for proceedings relating to a child placed in the legal custody of a county department of social or human services.
HB 16-1327	Financial Responsibility For Dental Hygienists	Rep. Ginal / Sen. Grantham	Concerning the Colorado Dental Board's authority to promulgate rules implementing financial responsibility requirements for dental care providers.
HB 16-1153	Changes Due Date For State Board Of Parole Report	Reps. Mitsch Bush & Wilson / Sens. Cooke & Donovan	Concerning the regulation of retail hydrogen fuel systems for vehicles.
HB 16-1173	Sunset Continue Water Vessel Registration	Rep. Mitsch Bush / Sen. Scott	Concerning the qualifications of licensed electricians.
HB 16-1230	Transparency Online Project Include County Info	Rep. Dore / Sen. Cooke	Concerning the inclusion of a county's financial information in the state's financial information database, which is known as the transparency online project.
HB 16-1306	Mortgage Loan Originators SAFE Act	Rep. Williams / Sen. Holbert	Concerning revision of the state statutes governing mortgage loan originators to conform more closely to applicable federal law, and, in connection therewith, amending, relocating, and repealing provisions in accordance with the federal "Secure and fair enforcement for mortgage licensing act of 2008
HB 16-1258	Court Clerks Posting Of Service	Rep. Melton / Sen. Lundberg	Concerning the posting by court clerks of process when a respondent is served by publication.

Friday, April 22, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed these bills into law today.

Number	Title	Sponsors	Summary
HB 16-1323	Division Of Labor Name Change	Rep. Kraft-Tharp / Sen.	Concerning changing the name of the Division of Labor to the Division of Labor Standards and Statistics.

Cooke

HB 16-1155	Controlled-access Highway As County Primary Road	Reps. Saine & Mitsch Bush / Sen. Sonnenberg	Concerning authorization for a county to designate a four-lane controlled-access highway that is located in the county as a primary road of the county highway system, and, in connection therewith, specifying the jurisdiction, control, and duties of the county and of a municipality through which the highway passes with respect to such a highway.
HB 16-1352	History Colorado Cash Fund	Rep. Hamner / Sen. Grantham	Concerning the appropriation of moneys from the state museum cash fund for the benefit of facilities owned and operated by the state historical society, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.
HB 16-1070	Signature Verification In Municipal Mail Ballot Election	Rep. Neville P. / Sen. Neville T.	Concerning a signature verification requirement for municipal mail ballot elections, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.
HB 16-1350	Higher Education Transfers Fee-for-service Contracts	Rep. Young / Sen. Grantham	Concerning the Department of Higher Education's authority to make transfers relating to a governing board's fee-for-service contracts for specialty education.

The Calculator

House Bills Introduced: 454

Senate Bills Introduced: 199

Number of Bills Pl'd: 171

Bills Signed by the Governor: 152

Axiom Newsletter | Axiom Strategies, Inc. | 303-775-7069 | info@axiompolitics.com

STAY CONNECTED:



Axiom Strategies, Inc., 225 E. 16th Ave., Denver, CO 80203

SafeUnsubscribe™_jcfile@wmrdenver.com

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@axiompolitics.com in collaboration with



Try it free today