

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

Axiom Newsletter



February 22nd, 2016

**"If God wanted us to vote, he would
have given us candidates."**

-Jay Leno

Days Til Sine Die: 72

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Colorado AG gives OK to controversial hospital provider fee move

Denver Post

Breaking from Republican allies, Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman is giving a green light to Gov. John Hickenlooper's plan to exempt the billion-dollar hospital provider fee program from TABOR.

The formal opinion issued Monday said the program that collects fees from hospitals to draw matching federal dollars would meet all three tests needed to qualify as a "government-owned business" outside the state's spending limits in the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

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Ballot initiatives would hike Colorado's minimum wage

Denver Business Journal

Business leaders shot down several attempts at the Legislature last year to raise Colorado's minimum wage. This year, they may have to spend more to defeat a new attempt at the ballot.

Colorado Families for a Fair Wage - a newly formed group that organizers say is composed of low-wage workers and small-business owners - filed two proposed constitutional amendments with the Secretary of State's office on Thursday that would raise workers' minimum hourly pay to \$12 over the next four years.

Both would bump the state minimum wage, now \$8.31 an hour, to \$9.30 at the start of 2017 and then increase it 90 cents per year. The difference between them is that one measure would increase the wage by inflation thereafter and the other would raise it by cost-of-living increases

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Proposal would make Colorado Constitution changes harder

Durango Herald

Coloradans could be asked this November to make it more difficult to amend the state constitution. A bipartisan group has submitted ballot language stemming from a statewide listening tour, in which voters were asked their thoughts on budget and elections issues. The Building a Better Colorado coalition underscored conflicts within the state constitution, which some attribute to how easy it is to amend.

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Colorado Senate OKs bill turning state into right-to-work territory

Denver Business Journal

Republicans in the Colorado Senate approved a bill Monday that would turn the state into a right-to-work state, though the measure is extremely unlikely to make it through the House. Majority GOP members voted over objections from all the Democrats in the chamber to pass Senate Bill 70, sponsored by Sen. Tim Neville, R-Littleton, which would prohibit companies from requiring union membership as a condition of employment. Though Republicans have run similar bills in recent years, this is the first such effort that has received the approval of one of the two chambers of the Legislature.

Twenty-six states are right-to-work state - allowing workers to be a part of unionized companies even if they refuse to join a union - while 23 states are closed-shop states that require membership to work for union companies. Colorado, meanwhile, has clawed out a middle ground since the passage of the 1943 Colorado Labor Peace Act, which requires two elections and approval from 75 percent of workers before a work force becomes a union shop.

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Colorado's third-quarter employment numbers revised

upward **Denver Post**

Colorado's jobs gains during the third quarter of last year were stronger than previously projected, but the battered energy industry has put some negative pressure on sectors such as construction, the state's Department of Labor and Employment said Wednesday. A quarterly revision of payroll numbers shows that Colorado added 68,200 jobs from September 2014 to last September, representing a growth rate of 2.7 percent. That's also 30,300 more jobs added than previously thought.

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Colorado House committee rejects "Homeless Bill of Rights" **Denver Post**

Homeless advocates were hoping a change to a bill that died in the last legislative session and a federal opinion supportive of the right to sleep in public had bettered their chances to end restrictive city laws, such as Denver's camping ban. However, House Bill 1191, dubbed the "Homeless Persons" Bill of Rights, was rejected on a 6-5 vote late Wednesday by the House Local Government Committee. The bill is designed to counter urban camping bans that Denver and other Colorado cities have imposed in recent years.

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Database records bill dies, but stakeholders hope to work on a compromise **CFOIC**

Opposition from a state agency and several local governments Wednesday doomed proposed legislation intended to modernize Colorado's open-records law by requiring that public records kept in database formats be available to the public in similar formats. The demise of SB16-037, however, won't end efforts to address long-standing problems with access to digital records under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA). One of the bill's opponents, the Colorado Secretary of State's Office, has agreed to convene a stakeholders' group to work on a possible compromise. As we've written, journalists and the public are too often denied public records in a format that allows for searching, sorting and aggregating. Public records kept in databases and spreadsheets are sometimes withheld entirely because governments say they aren't required to redact confidential information and release public portions.

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Colorado fracking activists drop 7 more anti-oil and gas ballot proposals **Denver Business Journal**

Supporters of 11 initiatives aimed at Colorado's oil and gas industry as of Tuesday have

withdrawn eight of the proposals, leaving three still standing. Seven of the proposals, initiatives No. 76, No. 77, No. 79, No. 80, No. 81, No. 82 and No. 83, which focused on mandatory setbacks up to 4,000 feet, were withdrawn Tuesday.

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Colorado rain-barrel bill passes House committee

Denver Post

For the second year in a row, a legislative storm is brewing in Colorado over who legally owns drops of rain. A bill that would allow gardeners to store 110 gallons of runoff from their roof in up to two rain barrels passed on a 10-2 bipartisan vote in a House committee Monday. Republicans in the state Senate let a similar bill expire without a vote on the chamber floor at the end of last year's session.

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Senate president going 'D.C.-style'

Pueblo Chieftain

Colorado Senate President Bill Cadman is using Washington, D.C.-style politics to block action on the constitutionality of the hospital provider fee question, state Sen. Leroy Garcia said at the monthly Legislative Breakfast on Saturday. "This is not Colorado-style," said Garcia, a Pueblo Democrat. "One big challenge is Bill Cadman. We're not used to this type of politics in Colorado."

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Infrastructure construction groups engage campaign team to move ballot question forward

Press Release

The Colorado Contractors Association, Associated General Contractors of Colorado, the Colorado Construction Industry Coalition and Move Colorado today announced that Reiter & Associates, one of Colorado's most successful campaign firms, has been engaged to prepare a sustainable transportation funding measure for the 2016 ballot. Over the coming month, the Reiter & Associates team will further define the elements of a ballot question that will address statewide transportation, mobility and safety funding, while ensuring accountability and transparency for taxpayers.

"Taking this step once again shows our resolve to present Colorado voters with a well thought out, reasonable question that addresses one of the most important issues facing our state," said CCA executive director Tony Milo. "We know that Colorado voters want to address transportation funding now. They are concerned about safety and congestion, and are calling for leadership on this critical issue. We believe that 2016 presents a unique opportunity to shape Colorado's infrastructure to address the state's growth, tourism and economic needs now and into the future."

Reiter & Associates is a political consulting firm specializing in state and local ballot issue

campaigns. Celebrating the firm's 20th anniversary in 2008, Rick Reiter, the firm's principal, has managed, consulted or provided campaign-related services to over a hundred state and local ballot issue campaigns, prevailing in 20 of its last 21 statewide contests.

Gov. Hickenlooper appoints Erik Mitisek as state's new Chief Innovation Officer

Office of the Governor

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2013 - Gov. John Hickenlooper announced today the appointment of Erik Mitisek, Chief Executive Officer of the Colorado Technology Association, as the state's new Chief Innovation Officer and as the Chair of the Colorado Innovation Network (COIN) board. The appointment is effective immediately.

"We're thrilled to have Erik Mitisek on board as our new Chief Innovation Officer," said Hickenlooper. "Erik brings different strengths and a new energy to our efforts to grow Colorado as a global leader in innovation and technology. His strong background in tech will catalyze the partnerships between public and private sectors that will make Colorado the best place for innovation."

Mitisek will oversee COIN to further support and elevate the state's leading position in the global innovation economy, building on the momentum generated by the network in which Colorado is the epicenter of today's innovation conversation. Under Mitisek's leadership, COIN will focus on catalyzing Colorado business development through strategies that broaden connections on a global scale.

"It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve Governor Hickenlooper and the State of Colorado in this exciting time of innovation and growth," said Mitisek. "With technology and innovation leading all industries in Colorado, we are positioned to showcase the best of innovation and invest in programs that fuel innovation to impact growth. I am very honored to serve the State of Colorado at this important time, and to follow the great work of Mark Sirangelo - a true leader in the innovation economy.

Mitisek replaces Sierra Nevada Corporation Space Systems' Mark Sirangelo, who had served as COIN chairman and Chief Innovation Officer since August 2013 and whose appointment ended in December 2015. "We are so grateful Mark was able to take the helm and lead Colorado's innovation industry over the last few years," said Hickenlooper.

As CEO of the Colorado Technology Association (CTA), Mitisek represents Colorado's technology industry through key public policy and legislative efforts, economic development and industry relations to ensure Colorado is one of the best technology markets in the United States. The organization's 45 person board represents the best of Colorado technology and over 50 percent of the IT workforce in the state and has close working ties with investors and entrepreneurs.

Throughout his career, he has been dedicated to building companies and communities in Colorado that have spanned over 15 years in the online software, luxury, consumer mobile, and online real estate industries - with a focus on innovation and early-stage companies. In 2010, he co-founded Next Great Place, a premium online travel network backed by Trinity Ventures, to help online travelers easily book complex online vacations. Prior to Next Great Place, Mitisek served as CEO of an online software company Claremont Information Systems, led firm-wide business development and strategic relationships for Exclusive Resorts (a Revolution Company) and helped build XACT Radio, a world-class personalized online music company early in the 2000s.

Gov. Hickenlooper announces Boards and Commissions appointments

Office of the Governor

The Small Business Stationary Source Technical and Environmental Compliance Advisory Panel advises the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on how to help small businesses comply with the Clean Air Act.

For terms expiring January 31, 2018:

- Michael Thomas Cugnetti of Denver, to serve as a member from the general public, reappointed;
- James Greenwood of Colorado Springs, to serve as a member from the general public, appointed.

The Colorado HIV Alliance for Prevention, Care and Treatment promotes effective HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programs by advising, informing and closely consulting with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment with regard to issues, trends, needs, policies and resources pertaining to HIV/AIDS throughout the state of Colorado.

For a term expiring February 27, 2019:

- Michael Jeffrey Nerenberg, MD of Pueblo West, reappointed.

The Fifteenth Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission selects nominees for district and county judicial vacancies in the fifteenth judicial district, which is comprised of Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers and Baca counties.

For a term expiring December 31, 2021:

- Randa Lea Davis-Tice of Lamar, to serve as an attorney and as a Democrat from Prowers County, appointed.

The Fifteenth Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission evaluates the performance of district and county judges in the fifteenth judicial district, which is comprised of Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers and Baca counties.

For a term expiring November 30, 2019:

- Kim R. Verhoeff of Lamar, to serve as an attorney, and occasioned by the resignation of Joshua Vogel of Lamar, appointed.

The Justice Assistance Grant Board advises the Colorado Department of Public Safety's Division of Criminal Justice on issues related to federal block grant monies designated to improve the criminal justice system and reduce drug abuse and violent crimes.

For a term expiring July 31, 2016:

- Police Commander David A. Moore of Longmont, and occasioned by the resignation of Deputy Public Safety Chief Paul B. Zuber of Firestone, appointed.

The Twentieth Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission evaluates the performance of district and county judges in the twentieth judicial district, which is comprised of Boulder County.

For a term expiring November 30, 2017:

- James Dominique Olvera of Boulder, to serve as a non-attorney, and occasioned by the resignation of Sheryl Anne Del Rosario of Erie, appointed.

The Colorado Tourism Office Board of Directors works in collaboration with the Colorado Tourism Office to oversee the implementation of domestic and international marketing, public relations, travel resources, research and several other Colorado tourism programs.

For a term expiring June 1, 2016:

- Andrea Fulton of Wheat Ridge, to serve as a representative of private travel attractions and casinos, and occasioned by the resignation of Michael Andrew Dudick of Breckenridge, appointed.

The Colorado Humanities Board of Directors promotes progress and scholarship in the humanities and the arts in Colorado.

For terms expiring May 1, 2017:

- Susan E. Kirkpatrick of Fort Collins, and occasioned by the resignation of George B. Curtis of Englewood, appointed;
- James Clark Miller of Akron, and occasioned by the resignation of David M. Smith, PhD. of Rangely, appointed.

StudyColorado promotes Colorado higher education internationally, while providing a forum for the exchange of information related to international education and helping to create a welcoming culture for international students and visitors.

For terms expiring February 1, 2019:

- Karen S. de Bartolome of Boulder, to serve as a representative of the business community, reappointed;
- Ardon Barry Hirschfeld, Jr. of Denver, to serve as a representative of the business community, reappointed.

The Calculator
House Bills Introduced: 302
Senate Bills Introduced: 135
Number of Bills PI'd: 63
Bills Signed by the Governor: 1

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