

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

Axiom Newsletter



March 28, 2016

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: The ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

-
Albert Schweitzer

Days Til Sine Die: 44

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What you need to know about Colorado's new state budget **KDVR**

Lawmakers at the General Assembly have apparently reached consensus on the state budget.

The budget, which has been agreed to in principal by a bipartisan committee, will be officially introduced and debated on next week at the Capitol.

Will you get money back?

In short, the answer is no. Refunds totaling around \$56 million were supposed to given back to taxpayers but lawmakers made an adjustment that prevented that from happening. If you

are a state worker, no money was allocated for raises either.

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Colorado voters can expect lengthy November ballot packed with initiatives

Colorado Springs Gazette

Colorado voters likely will have a couple pages to ponder in November after they make their pick for president. Dozens of groups and individuals have proposed dozens of ballot initiatives. Those include letting the state retain TABOR refunds, allowing beer and wine sales in grocery stores, and moving the state to a single-payer health-care system. Ironically, among the more than 100 proposals are some that would make it harder to amend the state constitution, requiring more signatures from more diverse areas to get an issue on the ballot.

The deadline to file initiatives with the Colorado Legislative Council was Friday. Language for 15 initiatives was filed, but several of those were not only duplicates of each other, but duplicates of language filed earlier as people tried to perfect their ballot language.

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Some unexpected candidate opponents emerge at El Paso County Republican Assembly

Colorado Springs Gazette

There were a few surprises at the El Paso County GOP assembly Saturday, with two unexpected candidates getting nominated from the floor and landing their names on the June 28 primary ballot.

Republicans who were nominated to the county assembly at their local caucus meetings on March 1 gathered at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs for a day full of politicking and voting on who should get a shot at representing the Republican Party in November. Rep. Lois Landgraf, R-Fountain, picked up a primary challenge when Stephen Elisha was nominated from the floor and received about 46 percent of the vote from the 61 delegates for House District 21.

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Colorado party leaders optimistic final days of legislative session could see more bipartisan passage of bills

Colorado Springs Gazette

With a Republican-controlled Senate and a Democrat-controlled House, plenty of bills have died this session after clearing one chamber under the Gold Dome in Denver, but party leaders are optimistic the second half could bring bipartisan success.

A proposal to eliminate the need for concealed carry permits for guns was rejected by Democrats in a House committee.

Republicans in a Senate committee rejected a proposal to force employers to offer unpaid leave to employees so they can attend their children's academic activities.

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Hickenlooper won't commit to four-year term, leaves door open for higher post

[Denver Post](#)

With his name being mentioned for a higher post in Washington, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper on Tuesday declined to commit to serving his entire four-year term. Instead, he left the door wide open about a possible move to a Democratic administration, if the party wins the White House in 2016.

Asked about whether he would serve until his term ends in 2018, the Democrat replied: "Will I commit to serve my entire four-year term? What does that have to do ..." he said at the announcement of his new lieutenant governor.

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Spirits makers submit ballot measure to sell strong liquor in Colorado grocery stores

[Denver Business Journal](#)

Spirits manufacturers added a new twist to the battle over grocery-store booze sales on Wednesday, submitting titles to state for two ballot initiatives that would allow grocers to sell hard liquor and allow any retailer with a liquor license to get as many as nine more.

The submissions to the Colorado Legislative Title Board come as big grocers already are pushing a campaign to allow grocers to sell full-strength beer and wine.

If the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States can get the measures onto the 2016 statewide ballot, it may create interesting dynamics that could help or hurt all of the affected measures after grocers declined to include liquor sales on their measure for fear that it could hurt its chances of passage.

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Denver blizzard prompts CDOT's 1st use of traction law for metro area

[Denver Post](#)

The Denver blizzard roared so ferociously before dawn Wednesday that the Colorado Department of Transportation for the first time activated the passenger vehicle traction law for metro area highways.

That move - aimed at preventing accidents by keeping vehicles that can't handle winter conditions off the road - has been most familiar to Colorado mountain drivers since CDOT and the Colorado State Patrol stepped up enforcement last fall. The law says drivers of cars and passenger trucks that lack chains, snow tires, or four-wheel or all-wheel drive (with good tire tread of at least one-eighth of an inch) could face fines of more than \$650 if they block the road.

CDOT made the call just before 7 a.m., as a gloppy mess of snow and slush accumulated. It activated the law for all metro interstates and major state-maintained highways, including

U.S. 6 and C-470.

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As Coal Prospects Decline, a Colorado Town Reconsiders Marijuana

New York Times

HOTCHKISS, Colo. - This mountain town of coal miners and organic farmers wasted no time in saying no to marijuana. After Colorado's 2012 vote legalizing marijuana, local leaders concerned about crime and the character of their tranquil downtown twice voted to ban the recreational and medical pot shops springing up in other towns.

But then coal crumbled. One mine here in the North Fork Valley has shut down amid a wave of coal bankruptcies and slowdowns, and another has announced that it will go dark. The closings added to a landscape of layoffs and economic woes concussing mining-dependent towns from West Virginia to Wyoming. And as Hotchkiss searches for a new economic lifeline, some people are asking: What about marijuana?

"If we could get it legalized right now, we could create some jobs, and we need the tax revenue," said Thomas Wills, a town trustee who runs a used-book store and supports allowing some marijuana stores. "Downtown's not going to be all flashing green crosses and dancing marijuana leaves. You can make it as unobtrusive as you want."

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Legal marijuana sales may hit \$23B in 4 years

9 News

Marijuana is rapidly becoming a big, semi-legal business across the country, with \$5.7 billion in sales last year and tens of thousands of people working and paying taxes as they cultivate, package and sell cannabis.

Colorado, Alaska, Oregon, Washington state and Washington, D.C. have all legalized adult recreational use, and 23 states and the District of Columbia permit some form of medical use. That's despite the fact that marijuana remains an illegal drug and Schedule 1 controlled substance at the federal level.

Across the country, thousands of people are rushing into the industry, struggling to work within a conflicting patchwork of state laws and local regulations, all the while operating largely without accounts at banks, which are fearful of running afoul of federal drug-trafficking laws.

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Supreme Court throws out states' challenge to Colorado marijuana law

KDVR

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday threw out a move by Nebraska and Oklahoma to have Colorado's legalization of recreational marijuana use be declared unconstitutional.

The justices did not comment is dismissing the lawsuit by the neighboring states. Nebraska has said it wants Colorado to pay for local drug enforcement in its state because of

Amendment 64, which was passed in 2012 and went into effect in 2014.

"Colorado has created a system that legalizes, promotes and facilitates distribution of marijuana," Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning said when the lawsuit was filed in December 2014.

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Gov. Hickenlooper statement on Supreme Court denial of interstate marijuana lawsuit

Office of the Governor

Monday, March 21, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper issued the following statement today regarding the United States Supreme Court denial of the interstate challenge to Colorado's legal marijuana laws:

"Since Colorado voters overwhelmingly passed legal recreational marijuana in 2012, we have worked diligently to put in place a regulatory framework - the first in the world - that allows this new industry to operate while protecting public health and safety. With today's Supreme Court ruling, the work we've completed so far remains intact. The Attorney General's office has done a remarkable job of vigorously defending the Colorado Constitution. We thank them for their hard work on this case."

Gov. Hickenlooper announces Boards and Commissions appointments

Office of the Governor

The Coal Mine Board of Examiners prepares and conducts examinations for all applicants to positions in coal mines that require certification under federal law. The Board issues certificates of competency to those who qualify. The Board also provides assistance in developing curricula for coal miner training programs.

For a term expiring July 1, 2017:

- Michael Gregg McFarland of Dolores, a coal mine owner, operator, manager, or other mine official actively engaged in underground mining, and occasioned by the resignation of Alan Reed Bayles of Hotchkiss, appointed.

The Twenty-Second Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission evaluates the performance of county and district court judges who are up for retention in Dolores and Montezuma counties.

For a term expiring November 30, 2017:

- Ann L. Wetton, Ph.D., LCSW of Cortez, to serve as a non-attorney, and occasioned by the resignation of Leslie Taylor of Cahone, appointed.

The Council of Advisors on Consumer Credit advises the attorney general's office on consumer credit issues and has the authority to approve or repeal final rules under the Uniform Consumer Credit Code.

For a term expiring September 30, 2019:

- Jadon Wiens of Lakewood, to serve as a representative of the consumer credit industry, appointed.

The Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council advances recommendations that strengthen healthy food access for all Coloradans through Colorado agriculture and local food systems and economies. The Council is the state conduit for hearing, reviewing and advancing critical food systems issues in which state government does or could play a role.

For a term expiring October 7, 2017:

- Karen Lynn Falbo of Denver, a Democrat, previously appointed to represent nutrition and health, and now appointed to represent food wholesalers or food retailers, reappointed;

For a term expiring October 7, 2018:

- Joyce Rene Kelly of Greeley, a Republican, previously appointed to represent food wholesalers or food retailers, now representing agricultural production, appointed;

For a term expiring October 7, 2019:

- Sandra Hoyt Stenmark of Denver, a Democrat, representing nutrition and health, appointed.

Gov. Hickenlooper nominates Donna Lynne to serve as Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today nominated Donna Lynne to serve as Lieutenant Governor effective upon formal confirmation by the General Assembly. Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia announced previously that he will leave the state to take on the role of president of Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. His last day will be April 29, 2016.

Lynne will assume both the traditional duties of the lieutenant governor with additional responsibilities of a chief operating officer to direct state operations. The governor plans to discuss this new role with the General Assembly.

Lynne is currently the executive vice president of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, overseeing more than an \$8 billion budget, 1.3 million members and 16,000 employees for Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

"Donna Lynne is uniquely qualified to take on this role," said Hickenlooper. "Her background in successfully running large complex organizations - in both the private and public sector - and her wisdom and experience in operations, will enhance the lieutenant governor's role to make even more of an impact on programs across the state."

Lynne spent 20 years in New York City government, followed by 20 years in the private sector. Her public sector background includes serving in the New York City Mayor's Office as Director of the Office of Operations where she helped improve service delivery, facilitated

interagency projects including technology initiatives and management oversight. "It is an honor to be asked to serve Governor Hickenlooper and the residents of Colorado," said Lynne. "I look forward to working with the Governor and his cabinet, a team of dedicated professionals who are committed to improving the business and overall climate of Colorado." An active member in the community, Lynne is a member of Colorado Concern, Colorado Forum and the Colorado Women's Forum. She is currently serving on several boards including the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver Public Schools Foundation, National Partnership for Women and Families, Teach for America-Colorado, and the University of Denver. She was also the chair of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce from 2013-14 and served on the board for nine years. Most recently, she was recognized by Modern Healthcare as one of the top 25 women in health care nationally, received an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree from the University of Denver, and named as one of the 25 Most Powerful Women by the Colorado Women's Chamber. Lynne holds a Bachelor of Arts (Economics and Political Science), a Masters of Public Administration, and Doctor of Public Health from Columbia University. She is married to Jim Brown and together they have five children. She enjoys the Colorado outdoors and has climbed all the fourteeners.

A search is underway in the governor's office for the executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

Gov. Hickenlooper signs bills into law

Office of the Governor

Tuesday, March 22, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed these bills into law today.

Number	Title	Sponsors	Summary
HB 16-1017	Victim Impact Panel Appearances For DUI	Rep. Pabon and Rep. Lawrence / Sen. Cooke and Sen. Johnston	Concerning appearances before a victim impact panel.
HB 16-1019	Broadcast Burns Watershed Protection	Rep. Becker / Sen. Jones and Sen. Roberts	Concerning increased authority to use broadcast burning as a tool to promote watershed restoration.
HB 16-1026	Repeal DOR Revenue Impact Accounting Requirements	Rep. Thurlow and Rep. Kraft-Tharp / Sen. Holbert	Concerning the repeal of the department of revenue's revenue impact accounting requirements related to a group of bills enacted in 2010.
HB 16-1032	Changes To Contents Of Criminal Summons	Rep. Lontine / Sen. Todd and Sen. Cooke	Concerning changes to the contents of a criminal summons.
HB 16-	Aligning	Rep. Roupe / Sen.	Concerning creating a Colorado

1125	Definition Of Veteran With Federal Law	Baumgardner	statutory reference to conform with the federal definition of "veteran".
HB 16-1130	Changes To CDE Reports	Rep. Priola / Sen. Johnston	Concerning changes to annual reports prepared by the Department of Education. Concerning the oversight authority of the Health Insurance Exchange Oversight Committee with regard to policies that affect consumers proposed by the health benefit exchange.
HB 16-1148	Health Benefit Exchange Rules and Policies	Rep. Sias / Sen. Roberts and Sen. Kefalas	Concerning the allocation of certain money that exceeds the total amount of all warrants issued by the state
HB 16-1161	Allocate Senior Property Tax Exemption Money	Rep. Young / Sen. Lambert	treasurer to reimburse local governmental entities for property tax revenues lost as a result of the application of a certain property tax exemption.
HB 16-1241	Supplemental Appropriation Dept. of Higher Education	Rep. Hamner / Sen. Lambert	Concerning a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Higher Education.

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed these bills into law today.

Number	Title	Sponsors	Summary
HB 16-1051	Forms To Transfer Vehicle Ownership Upon Death	Rep. Van Winkle / Sen. Holbert	Concerning the issuance of beneficiary designation forms to facilitate the transfer of ownership of a vehicle upon the death of an owner.
HB 16-1064	Medical Marijuana Testing Facility Local Licensing	Rep. Brown / Sen. Roberts	Concerning local licensing of medical marijuana testing facilities.
HB 16-1091	Change Due Dates For Electric Utility Transmission Plan	Rep. Thurlow & Rep. Mitsch Bush / Sen. Sonnenberg	Concerning a change to the biennial filing date for rate-regulated electric utilities to submit their plans for transmission facilities to the public utilities commission, and, in connection therewith, deleting the requirement that the commission issue

HB 16-1119	Modify Sales & Use Tax Exemption For Aircraft	Rep. Thurlow / Sen. Holbert	a final order within one hundred eighty days after an application for the construction or expansion of transmission facilities is filed. Concerning a modification to the number of days that an aircraft may remain in the state after it is purchased for purposes of the sales and use tax exemption on the purchase of certain aircraft.
SB 16-055	Rural Electric Cooperative Election Procedures	Rep. Moreno / Sen. Grantham	Concerning the conduct of elections to choose the board of directors of a cooperative electric association. Concerning the authority of a local government to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with an out-of-state local government to provide critical public services.
SB 16-063	Intergovernmental Agreement with Out-of State Local Gov	Rep. Vigil / Sen. Roberts	Concerning the authority of a local government to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with an out-of-state local government to provide critical public services.
SB 16-089	Dept. of State Cash Fund Alternative Max Reserve	Rep. Hamner / Sen. Lambert	Concerning the establishment of an alternative maximum reserve for the Department of State cash fund. Concerning the ability of the Department of Public Health and Environment to collect data on marijuana health effects at a regional level.
SB 16-090	Marijuana Health Effects Data Regional Level	Rep. Young / Sen. Steadman	Concerning the ability of the Department of Public Health and Environment to collect data on marijuana health effects at a regional level.
SB 16-091	Delay Start of Statewide Discovery Sharing System	Rep. Hamner / Sen. Lambert	Concerning timing of the statewide discovery sharing system.
SB 16-092	State Authority Under Federal Oil Pollution Act	Rep. Rankin / Sen. Grantham	Concerning the authorization of the state to act pursuant to the federal "Oil Pollution Act of 1990". Concerning transfer of the oversight of Independent Living Services from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Labor and Employment.
SB 16-093	Transfer Independent Living Services to CDLE	Rep. Young / Sen. Lambert	Concerning transfer of the oversight of Independent Living Services from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Labor and Employment.
SB 16-095	5 Year DOC Appropriations for Crime Fixes	Rep. Young / Sen. Steadman	Concerning the five-year appropriations requirement for bills that change the periods of incarceration in state correctional

SB 16-107

Regulation of Voter Registration Drive Circulators

Rep. Pabon / Sen. Cooke

facilities.

Concerning the regulation of voter registration drive circulators, and, in connection therewith, requiring circulators to complete mandatory training.

The Calculator

House Bills Introduced: 402

Senate Bills Introduced: 173

Number of Bills Pl'd: 106

Bills Signed by the Governor: 70

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