

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

Axiom Newsletter



May 9, 2016

**"Everything has to come to an end, sometime."
-L. Frank Baum, The Marvelous Land of Oz**

Days Til Sine Die: 2

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Disappointment mixes with optimism as Colorado legislature trudges toward adjournment **Colorado Springs Gazette**

Three days remain in the 2016 Colorado General Assembly and tensions are high, meetings are long, and compromises are scarce.

Last week, after nearly 100 days of closed-door negotiations, the public learned that a grand bargain on construction defects was unattainable.

"I'm very disappointed. ... I'm very disappointed," said Senate Majority Leader Mark Scheffel, who has worked on the issue for the past three years.

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'Folks Are Angry' About Colorado's Caucus System. But Is A Primary The Answer?

Colorado Public Radio

This year might have been your last chance to participate in a presidential caucus in Colorado. State lawmakers are considering switching to a primary after widespread frustration with how the process went this time around.

For Democrats, record turnout meant overcrowded precincts, with some voters facing long waits and meetings that moved outside into the frosty March night.

For Republicans, the party's decision to drop their caucus straw poll left many members disappointed and disenchanted -- especially supporters of Donald Trump, who felt the change was made specifically to disadvantage their candidate.

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Will Colorado beer battle end in a truce?

Durango Herald

State lawmakers hope they can settle a decades-long battle over grocery store beer sales with a truce.

A large coalition of support has grown for a piece of legislation that would gradually allow full-strength beer, wine and liquor sales in supermarkets. But the measure faces an uphill journey.

The effort comes as a compromise to avoid competing ballot initiatives this fall. Efforts run the gamut, including just allowing beer and wine sales in supermarkets - which has gained the most momentum - to also including liquor.

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Colorado legislature puts rules on pay-for-play fantasy sports leagues

Denver Post

A bill to regulate fantasy sports leagues in Colorado is on its way to the governor to be signed into law, after the Senate gave it final approval Friday night.

The legislation is aimed at pay-for-play fantasy sports leagues that have been banned in some states, where leaders have seen them as a form of gambling.

House Democratic leader Crisanta Duran, who championed the bill, said reasonable regulation would preserve the popular games while making sure they're played fair and square with prohibitions against minors playing and illegal betting.

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Colorado rig count drops to lowest in nearly 16 years

Denver Post

Colorado's oil and gas rig count has started to drop again after showing signs of stabilizing in

March and April, hitting its lowest mark in more than 15 years.

The state's producers let go of a rig this week and one last week, bringing Colorado's count down to 15, according to a report Friday from Baker Hughes.

Oil prices have rebounded in the past three months. For an eight-week stretch in March and April, the number of rigs active in the state held steady at 17.

Colorado's count is now the lowest since 14 rigs were operating the week of Aug. 25, 2000.

The count is down from 22 at the start of this year, 39 a year ago and the all-time high of 125 active rigs eight years ago. That means 88 percent fewer rigs are active now than at the peak.

Producers argue that today's directional drilling rigs are much more efficient, meaning fewer are needed than in the past.

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Colorado Supreme Court strikes down local fracking bans **Colorado Springs Gazette**

The Colorado Supreme Court struck down attempts by two cities to ban or delay fracking on Monday, a major victory for the oil and gas industry.

The court ruled that a ban on fracking in Longmont and a five-year moratorium in Fort Collins are invalid because they conflict with state law. State officials and the industry argued the state has the primary authority to regulate energy, not local governments.

The courts may not have the final say, however. Fracking critics hope to get at least five measures on the November ballot to amend the state Constitution to restrict the industry or allow local governments to do so.

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Proposed Colorado construction defects bill unlikely to hatch **Denver Post**

Negotiations over a prospective bill designed to give a much-needed shot in the arm to Colorado's lagging condo construction market came to a sudden halt Thursday, likely spelling an end to any effort this year to reform the state's construction defects law.

The Community Associations Institute, which represents people living in homeowners associations, claimed that home builders and the Denver Chamber of Commerce "scuttled" a construction defects reform bill that was being readied for introduction.

Meanwhile, the Homeownership Opportunity Alliance - a coalition of business groups, builders, elected officials and affordable housing advocates - said it was "disappointed that negotiations broke down today."

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Student privacy bill flies through Colorado Statehouse with unanimous support **Colorado Springs Gazette**

A student data privacy bill is headed to the governor's desk after Republicans and Democrats

came together on the issue just as the 2016 legislative session nears its end. Rep. Paul Lundeen, a former elected member of the Colorado Board of Education, said there has been a lack of trust between parents and school officials on the issue. "The driver of this has been to heal that trust," Lundeen said.

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Bill That Generates \$3.5 Billion For Road & Bridge Projects Clears Hurdle

CBS Denver

A bill that would generate \$3.5 billion for road and bridge projects in Colorado, including Interstate 70, passed out of the state Senate on Friday.

The Fix Colorado Roads Act would ask voters this November to approve a 20-year bond proposal.

"To where there is sustainable funding for transportation inside the general fund and with some other resources that we might be able to get from some other departments, it looks like it might fly this time," said Randy Baumgardner, R-Hot Sulphur Springs.

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City seeks pot profits for law enforcers

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel

Retail marijuana sales and grow operations aren't allowed in Mesa County, save for the town of De Beque. Regardless, the city of Grand Junction will be applying for a hefty grant to help law enforcement officers combat illegal marijuana-related activities.

Grand Junction's grant request for nearly \$187,000 a year for three years from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs would fund two police detectives. DOLA's grant is available for communities that did not allow the sale of retail marijuana.

Grand Junction City Council on Wednesday night gave the city the green light to apply for the grant.

"The environment has changed and we are seeing an increase in sophisticated illegal marijuana grow operations, in addition to purported medical marijuana dispensaries," according to the city's report in addressing the issue. "The new laws have made it extremely complicated to build a prosecutable case with vague laws and changing case law."

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What is Adams County doing with its half million bucks in pot taxes?

Denver Post

Adams County's voter-sanctioned special tax on recreational marijuana sales, which went into effect last summer, was no easy thing.

Three cities - Northglenn, Aurora and Commerce City - sued the county, claiming that it didn't have the authority under state law to levy a tax on a single product. Coupled with their own municipal taxes on pot, they argued that an additional county levy would put retail pot stores

in their jurisdictions at a competitive disadvantage to others. When a judge ruled in Adams County's favor last fall, Commissioner Eva Henry knew right away who would benefit from the additional revenues.

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Fact-Check: ColoradoCare would have higher revenues than McDonald's?

ABC Denver

An independent analysis says Colorado's proposed universal health care system would have \$38 billion in projected revenues -- dwarfing Fortune 500 companies like McDonald's, Nike and American Express.

The report, by the Colorado Health Institute, is a primer on the potential benefits and drawbacks of ColoradoCare, a proposed state health care cooperative that would resemble single-payer health care systems like those in Canada and Europe. Coloradans will decide whether to create the giant system when they vote on Amendment 69 in the November election.

"Supporters estimate ColoradoCare would have \$38 billion in annual revenues," the report states.

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Donna Lynne confirmed as next Colorado lieutenant governor

Denver Post

Donna Lynne won confirmation as Colorado's next lieutenant governor Wednesday after a Republican-led Senate voted unanimously to approve Gov. John Hickenlooper's pick. A swearing-in ceremony for Lynne to assume the state's No. 2 post is expected next week. The former Kaiser Permanente executive won wide praise from lawmakers in a committee hearing where she explained her plan to measure outcomes against dollars going into state programs.

"I'm excited about this next adventure you're taking on, and I'm excited to support you here today," said Sen. Owen Hill, a Colorado Springs Republican.

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Gov. Hickenlooper signs Long Bill for 2016-17

Office of the Governor

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today signed HB16-1405 "2016-17 Long Appropriations Bill" into law.

"This bill, and its accompanying legislative items that comprise the FY 2016-17 budget, reflect the commitment and collaboration of many participants over the last year," said Hickenlooper. "The Colorado General Assembly has a long history of setting aside disagreements that in other states would lead to acrimonious gridlock. In keeping with that tradition, the budget agreement reflects the best spirit of bipartisanship in the United States and it will effectively serve the entire state of Colorado."

The next fiscal year's budget include these noteworthy items:

- K-12 Education - With the expected passage of the annual School Finance Act, funding for primary and secondary education will increase with inflation and enrollment over the prior year. In addition, the negative factor is reduced to \$830.7 million for FY 2016-17, \$24.5 million below the \$855.2 million contained in the initial FY 2015-16 appropriation.
- Child Welfare - In the second phase of a continuing effort to boost funding for child welfare at the county level, this budget sets aside \$6.1 million in the General Fund for an additional 100 caseworkers in counties throughout Colorado.
- Youth Corrections -With an increase of \$2.2 million in the General Fund, this budget adds 36.3 FTE to address safety concerns in Colorado's State-owned and State-operated youth corrections facilities.
- Transportation - The budget plan allocates \$150 million from the General Fund to the Highway Users Tax Fund to support transportation infrastructure.

"House Bill 16-1405 and its companion legislation culminate a difficult but productive year of work for Colorado's budget planners," said Hickenlooper. "We would like to express our gratitude for the work performed by the Joint Budget Committee members, the Joint Budget Committee staff, and the scores of budget analysts throughout Colorado's government, all of whose tireless efforts on behalf of Colorado are sometimes overlooked."

The budget transmittal letter, which includes information about the footnotes included in the Long Bill, is attached to this news release.

Gov. Hickenlooper Announces Boards and Commission Appointments

Office of the Governor

The State Board of Marriage and Family Therapist Examiners adopts rules and regulations for the profession, conducts examinations, and grants or denies licenses.

For a term expiring July 31, 2018:

- Jessica Young Warren, EdS, LMFT of Denver, to serve as a marriage and family therapist, and occasioned by the resignation of John Wesley Fleeker, MS, LMFT of Grand Junction, appointed.

The Justice Assistance Grant Board advises the 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, 2018:

- Rebecca Huckaby Raphaelson of Fountain, and occasioned by the resignation of Jagruti Rai Shah, MA, LPC, CACIII of Broomfield appointed.

Gov. Hickenlooper Signs Bills Into Law

Office of the Governor

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed these bills into law today.

Number	Title	Sponsors	Summary
HB 16-1158	Sunset Identity Theft And Financial Fraud Board	Rep. Lee / Sen. Holbert	Concerning continuation under the sunset law of the Identity Theft and Financial Fraud Board.
HB 16-1159	Sunset Colorado Fraud Investigators Unit	Rep. Lee / Sen. Holbert	Concerning continuation under the sunset law of the Colorado Fraud Investigators Unit.
HB 16-1409	Unclaimed Prop Fund Transfer For State Programs	Rep. Hamner / Sen. Lambert	Concerning the transfer of forty-two million eight hundred thousand dollars on June 30, 2016, from the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund for State Programs.
HB 16-1413	Refinance Water Pollution Control Program	Rep. Rankin / Sen. Grantham	Concerning the financing of the Water Pollution Control Program, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.
HB 16-1417	Capital-related Transfers Of Moneys	Rep. Hamner / Sen. Lambert	Concerning Capital-related Transfers of Moneys.
HB 16-1419	FY 2015-16 Statutory Reserve Reduction	Rep. Hamner / Sen. Lambert	Concerning a reduction in the amount of the general fund reserve required for the fiscal year 2015-16.
HB 16-1406	County Coroners Reimbursement By DOC	Rep. Young / Sen. Grantham	Concerning Department of Corrections reimbursements of expenses of county coroners, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.
HB 16-1410	Competency Evaluation Location	Rep. Young / Sen. Grantham	Concerning matters related to the location where a competency evaluation is conducted, and, in connection therewith, making and reducing appropriations.
HB 16-1407	Extend Medicaid Payment Reform & Innovation Pilot	Rep. Young / Sen. Steadman	Concerning the continuation of the Medicaid Payment Reform and Innovation Pilot Program, and, in connection therewith, changing the time frames, eliminating the repeal date of the pilot program, enhancing the reporting

HB 16-1408	Cash Fund Allocations For Health-related Programs	Rep. Rankin / Sen. Steadman	<p>requirements of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, and making an appropriation.</p> <p>Concerning the allocation of cash fund revenues to health-related programs, and, in connection therewith, modifying and streamlining the allocation of tobacco litigation settlement moneys by replacing the current two-tier allocation system that includes both percentage-based and fixed amount allocations of settlement moneys with a single set of exclusively percentage-based allocations and replacing settlement moneys funding for specified programs with marijuana tax cash fund funding; allocating additional settlement moneys to the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center for Cancer Research only; transferring a specified amount from the Children's Basic Health Plan Trust to a newly created primary care provider sustainability fund on July 1, 2016; and making and reducing appropriations.</p>
HB 16-1411	Fort Lyon Residential Community Study	Rep. Rankin / Sen. Steadman	<p>Concerning the Supportive Residential Community Program operated at the Fort Lyon Property, and, in connection therewith, requiring a longitudinal evaluation of the program; and making an appropriation.</p>
HB 16-1165	CO Child Support Commission Statutory Changes	Reps. Becker, K. & Landgraf / Sen. Crowder	<p>Concerning statutory changes based on the recommendations in the report of the 2013-2015 Colorado Child Support Commission.</p>
HB 16-1414	Funding Base For Telecom Relay Services	Rep. Rankin / Sen. Steadman	<p>Concerning the assessment of a monthly surcharge on customers of voice telecommunications providers to fund telecommunications relay services for telephone users with disabilities, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.</p>
HB 16-	Expand Business	Rep.	Concerning modifications to the business

1048	Enterprise Program	Primavera / Sen. Lundberg	enterprise program to be administered by the Department of Labor and Employment under its authority to administer vocational rehabilitation programs.
HB 16-1268	DA Representation Interstate Offender Compacts	Rep. Foote / Sen. Cooke	Concerning district attorney's representation in certain hearings arising from interstate supervision compacts.
HB 16-1298	Vehicle Height, Length, And Weight	Rep. Melton / Sen. Cooke	Concerning changes in permissible vehicle dimensions.
HB 16-1317	Motor Vehicle Service Contract Products & Services	Rep. Williams / Sen. Holbert	Concerning clarifying the types of transactions that may be included in a motor vehicle service contract.
HB 16-1379	Psychologists Continuing Professional Development Program	Rep. Kraft-Tharp / Sen. Martinez Humenik	Concerning the criteria under which the state board of psychologist examiners may award professional development credit for specific activities currently included in the continuing professional development program for licensed psychologists.
HB 16-1415	Driver & Motor Vehicle Services	Rep. Hamner / Sen. Steadman	Concerning the manner in which the state funds driver and vehicle services by the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department of Revenue, and, in connection therewith, making and reducing an appropriation.
HB 16-1418	Marijuana Tax Cash Fund Transfer To General Fund	Rep. Rankin / Sen. Steadman	Concerning a transfer from the marijuana tax cash fund to the general fund.
SB 16-058	CO Farm To Consumer Sales	Rep. Becker / K. & Sen. Hill	Concerning the regulation of certain foods, and, in connection therewith, exempting certain food producers from licensure, inspection, and other regulation, and making an appropriation.
SB 16-126	State Bank Meeting Frequency	Reps. Garnett & Nordberg / Sen. Roberts	Concerning parity of state-chartered banks with federally chartered banks regarding frequency of meetings.

SB 16-133	Transfer Of Property Rights At Death	Reps. Pabon & Willett / Sen. Tate	Concerning the transfer of property rights upon the death of a person, and, in connection therewith, clarifying determination-of-heirship proceedings in probate.
SB 16-137	Parks and Wildlife Commission & Landowner Agreement	Rep. Dore / Sens. Johnston & Sonnenberg	Concerning a clarification of the authority of the Parks and Wildlife Commission to enter into an agreement with a private landowner.

The Calculator
House Bills Introduced: 467
Senate Bills Introduced: 218
Number of Bills Pl'd: 268
Bills Signed by the Governor: 178

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