February 18, 2015

<http://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-tracker-votes/0/391/2015/0/>

*"The problem with quotes found on the internet is they are often not true."-Abraham Lincoln*

**Days Til Siene Die: 84**

 **5 Things To Know at the Colorado statehouse**

The Associated Press

One-fourth of the 2015 legislative session is in the books, meaning the niceties are over and longer days await lawmakers. Here's what will be keeping lawmakers busy this week.

**Editorial: Time has come for felony DUI law in Colorado**

The Denver Post

After years of trying, it seems that the effort to increase criminal penalties for repeated drunken driving might finally be on track to pass the legislature.

**Road bill introduced again in legislature, faces opposition**

The Denver Post

A bill that calls for more public oversight of public-private road deals is being introduced after a similar measure was vetoed by Gov. John Hickenlooper last year. State Sen. Matt Jones, D-Louisville, is once again the sponsor, and he says this latest version - Senate Bill 172 - is missing the parts that Hickenlooper and several business groups found objectionable. That included legislative approval of contract terms of more than 35 years. "I removed the part of the bill cited in the veto," Jones said. "Now everyone can get on board and we can make it law."

**Construction-defects reform bill introduced in Colorado Senate**

The Denver Post

State lawmakers concerned about the slow pace of condominium construction in Colorado unveiled a bill Tuesday that would make it more difficult for homeowners to sue over faulty construction. A bipartisan group of legislators gathered at the Yale light-rail station in Denver to announce the introduction of Senate Bill 177. "We know there are people crying to get into (condos) and they're simply not available," said Sen. Mark Scheffel, a Republican co-sponsor of the bill.

**Construction liability law under review in Colorado**

The Gazette

A simmering dispute over liability in home construction is heating up at the Colorado Legislature. A bipartisan group of lawmakers planned to announce a bill Tuesday to address the construction-defects law. The law governs how homeowners can sue builders for shoddy construction.

**Urban-renewal bill passes first committee in Colorado Legislature**

The Denver Business journal

Despite complaints that is was mere "subterfuge," a bill that attempts to create some detente in the constant battles over Colorado's urban-renewal law overwhelmingly passed its first committee in the state Legislature on Tuesday. Senate Bill 135, sponsored by Sens. Beth Martinez Humenik, R-Thornton, and Cheri Jahn, D-Wheat Ridge, would add county representatives to Urban Renewal Authority boards, addressing a long-standing complaint that county governments that lose future property tax revenue in URA-approved projects have no say over whether or how that money is spent.

**Repeal of Colorado anti-discrimination lawsuit bill receives first approval**

The Denver Business journal

Colorado legislators took the first step Monday toward repealing a two-year-old law that ramped up potential lawsuit awards against the state's smallest businesses, but the road ahead for the bill remains a rocky one. Members of the Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee voted 6-3 to advance a measure that would wipe out almost all of House Bill 1136 from 2013. State Sen. Cheri Jahn, D-Wheat Ridge, joined with Republicans in backing Senate Bill 69, sponsored by Sen. Laura Woods, R-Arvada, over sometimes vehement objections from Democratic members.

 **Nevada company headed to Colorado Springs, bringing 2,100 jobs with it**

The Gazette

In what is one of the biggest economic development wins for Colorado Springs since the early 1990s, a Nevada aerospace company announced Thursday it will build an $88 million hangar complex at the airport that will employ more than 2,100 people to turn wide body aircraft interiors into flying offices for high-end customers. Sierra Completions, a new subsidiary of Sparks, Nev.-based Sierra Nevada Corp., agreed to build the complex after the Colorado Economic Development Commission voted unanimously Thursday to approve $23.2 million in state incentives as part of a nearly $400 million incentive package that will pump $5 billion into Colorado's economy.

**Hickenlooper says state needs to spend big to prepare for growth**

The Denver Post

Gov. John Hickenlooper ended his remarks to the Economic Club of Colorado on Tuesday with a warning for the state's business leaders. A major focus of his second term is preparing for Colorado's impending growth - with 3 million more residents expected in the next 20 years, he said. The Democrat said Colorado is growing "almost too rapidly" and the growth costs money.

**Glitch makes Colorado health plans more expensive**

9 News

The Affordable Care Act is turning out to be less affordable than it's supposed to be for many people in Colorado, thanks to a glitch uncovered by 9NEWS. The problem affected an untold number of plan subsidies through the state health exchange, though multiple industry sources told 9NEWS it's more widespread than the renewal glitch we recently reported on which hit up to 3,600 plans on Connect for Health Colorado, the state exchange.

**Colorado GOP looks to make big education changes**

The Associated Press

Colorado Republicans are using their new power in the state Legislature to float a raft of conservative proposals to change public education - but many of the proposals stand little chance of becoming law. From private-school tax credits to new sex education policies, Republicans say they're using their new Senate majority to address parent complaints. The GOP holds the Senate for the first time in a decade, and Republicans are advancing their education priorities after years of rejection.

**Colorado considering lowering the bar for high school graduation**

The Denver Post

Nearly two years ago, the state Board of Education approved the first-ever common set of expectations all Colorado students must meet to earn a high school diploma, starting with the class of 2021. The idea is to move beyond the mishmash of graduation requirements at 178 school districts and replace antiquated systems of counting credit hours with measures that matter.

**Colorado AG: State board of education cannot grant test waivers**

The Denver Post

The Colorado State Board of Education does not have authority to give school districts waivers from state-mandated tests, according to the Colorado attorney general. The formal opinion was signed last week and sent to the Colorado Department of Education on Tuesday afternoon.

**Colorado GOP pushes through "Parent's Bill of Rights"**

The Denver Post

A Republican-led effort in the state Senate to assert parents' authority to dictate what their minor children learn in school and determine health care they receive won preliminary approval Wednesday after a spirited debate. The main effect of the legislation, although it went unacknowledged by supporters, would prevent teenagers from receiving birth control without parental approval and make it a crime for a physician to provide care to a minor without parent consent.

**Gov. Hickenlooper announces several Boards and Commissions appointments**

Office of The Governor

On Monday, Feb. 9, 2015 Gov. John Hickenlooper announced several Boards and Commissions appointments. The appointments were to the Governor's Commission on Community Service, the State Housing Board, the Colorado Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities, the Scenic and Historic Byways Commission, the Water Quality Control Commission, and the Colorado Commission on Low Income Energy Assistance. The Governor's Commission on Community Service recommends to the governor a comprehensive national and community service plan for the state that is developed through an open and public process and updated annually. The plan shall address the state's needs in the areas of school safety, preventing youth violence, literacy and mentoring or disadvantaged youth. The Commission also administers funds received from the Corporation on National and Community Service. The member appointed for a term expiring August 24, 2015:

•Alisa Dian Dorman of Highlands Ranch, to serve as the Commissioner's designee for the Colorado Department of Education, and occasioned by the resignation of Patricia Montgomery of Lakewood.

 The State Housing Board works to establish uniform construction and maintenance standards for hotels, motels, multiple dwellings and factory-built housing. The Board also develops for submittal to the Colorado General Assembly and units of local government recommendations for uniform housing standards and building codes. The member appointed for a term expiring January 31, 2019:

•Letitia Jones Horace of Denver, a Democrat and resident of the First Congressional District.

Members reappointed for terms expiring January 31, 2019:

•Raymond Timothy Hudner of Grand Junction, a Republican and resident of the Third Congressional District;

•Barbara Cleland of Aurora, a Republican and resident of the Sixth Congressional District.

The Colorado Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities coordinates with state boards, advisory councils, and commissions established for or related to persons with disabilities, advising the governor and General Assembly on legislation and state policy affecting persons with disabilities, monitoring the state's implementation of Title II of the federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990". The council acts as an additional entry point for public grievances regarding disability issues and referring those grievances to the appropriate state agency or personnel, and develops procedures relating to the council's internal operations. The member appointed for a term expiring October 7, 2016:

•Mindy Joy Siegel, M.D. of Colorado Springs, to serve as a person with disabilities from business and industry, disability advocacy organizations and other nonprofit organizations, and occasioned by the resignation of Teresa "Teri" A. Izquierdo of Denver.

The Scenic and Historic Byways Commission works with state agencies, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, local byways organizations, and public and private resources to assist in the development of byways management plans, including interpretation, promotion and protection of distinctive byways characteristics. They also help coordinate the budgeting process and allocation of federal, state, and private funds for the purpose of byway improvement. The member appointed for a term expiring January 1, 2016:

•Honorable K.C. Becker of Boulder, to serve as a member of the State Legislature.

The Water Quality Control Commission is responsible for developing and maintaining a comprehensive and effective program for prevention, control and abatement of water pollution of the waters throughout the entire state. The member appointed for a term expiring February 15, 2015:

•Paul Douglas Frohardt of Denver.

Members reappointed for terms expiring February 15, 2015:

•Mary Beth Fabisiak of Lakewood;

•Jon Slutsky of Wellington.

The Colorado Commission on Low Income Energy Assistance works through the Low Income Energy Assistance Program to collect and distribute money to eligible recipients for use in the payment of electric and gas utility bills. The member appointed for a term expiring December 2, 2015:

•Darwin Lee Winfield of Greeley, to serve as a representative of the private sector, and occasioned by the resignation of H. Brian Martens of Windsor.

Members appointed for terms expiring December 2, 2016:

•Antonio Amable Mendez of Denver, to serve as a representative of consumers;

•Mary Kathleen Loux, RN, BSN of Lakewood, to serve as a representative of the public sector.

Member reappointed for a term expiring December 2, 2016:

•Joseph M. Pereira of Westminster, to serve as the designee for the Colorado Energy Office.

Member appointed for a term expiring at the pleasure of the governor:

•Lena Wilson of Aurora, director of the Food and Energy Assistance Division in the Colorado Department of Human Services.

**The Calculator**

**House Bills Introduced: 219**

**Senate Bills Introduced: 177**

**Number of Bills PI'd: 66**