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

"An unjust law is no law at all."-Saint Augustine

**Days Til Siene Die: 65**

**The Ten Most Successful States for Video Game Development**

*Fortune*

The proliferation of smartphones and tablets, along with new free-to-play games luring a new audience of gamers, has helped the United States video game industry to see consistent growth despite a global recession. According to the Entertainment Software Association, the video game industry grew four times faster than the American economy between 2009 and 2012.

**Colorado oil, gas task force sends 9 measures on to governor's desk**

*The Denver Post*

Two federal lawsuits filed in U.S. District Court in Colorado on Thursday morning against the state's politicians, public servants and businesses aim to "end the sale of recreational marijuana in this state," according to attorney David H. Thompson, who represents the plaintiffs in both cases.The governor's oil and gas task force Tuesday endorsed plans for more local input on large-scale drilling projects but stopped short of supporting proposals to give any more power to local governments.

**Hickenlooper statement on oil and gas task force completion**

*Office of The Governor*

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015Gov. John Hickenlooper today issued the following statement regarding the completion of work by the oil and gas task force. The group was charged in July 2014 to craft recommendations to minimize land use conflicts that can occur when siting oil and gas facilities near homes, schools, businesses and recreational areas. "We commend the task force for literally thousands of hours of volunteer work. Their determination and willingness to really hear each other was remarkable, and their recommendations are significant in both breadth and the level of consensus they achieved. They made undeniable progress for all of Colorado today and we are extremely grateful for their work." "We have not rested in addressing the tough issues that come with balancing quality of life with an important and thriving industry. From advances in groundwater protections and methane limits to today's recommendations that ensure protection of people, industry and the environment, working together is how we always find the right solutions for Colorado."

**House speaker calls oil and gas report "disappointing," may to ballot initiative**

*Denver Post*

The top democrat in the General Assembly expressed disappointment last week in the outcome of Gov. John Hickenlooper's oil and gas task force, saying she is open to an initiative effort to force the issue back to the Colorado ballot. House Speaker Dickey Lee Hullinghorst struck a different tone than the Democratic governor in describing the task force's report, a day after it voted to advance nine recommendations that avoided many of the thorny issues surrounding oil and gas drilling.

**Aurora appeals Gaylord lawsuit loss; Mayor Hogan responds to Stapleton letter**

*The Denver Business Journal*

Aurora officials filed an unusually quick appeal Tuesday to a decision made by an Adams County District Court judge that, if upheld, could endanger the future of the Gaylord Rockies project. Judge Ted C. Tow III ruled that a November 2011 election held by the city to create an "enhanced taxing area" that would fund a portion of the development of the 1,500-room hotel/conference center did not meet election provisions of the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. The taxing district was approved in an election in which a single person - an employee of the landowner - cast the lone vote.

**Plan to give tax breaks to Colorado data centers faces many hurdles**

*The Denver Business Journal*

Colorado business leaders who are pushing a tax break to attract data centers will have to navigate a changed legislative landscape this year in which the bill is being met with skepticism. That skepticism comes not only from its traditional liberal opponents, but from some Republicans who question whether more industry-specific tax credits are appropriate.

**Revised Colorado numbers show more jobs added in 2014**

*The Denver Business Journal*

New numbers out from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment last Wednesday suggest that Colorado employers hired more workers than originally thought in the third quarter last year. The department said it means the official count for June, July and August employment will be revised upward by almost 7 percent. And that means, when the employment numbers are revised for all of 2014, it will show employment in Colorado up by 3.3 percent year over year. Trade, transportation and utilities, construction, financial activities, professional and business services were among the sectors showing gains in the revision.

**Lawmakers try to kickstart crowdfunding investment in Colorado**

*The Denver Business Journal*

Colorado could join the growing ranks of states allowing crowdfunding investment in businesses by average investors. A bill introduced Wednesday at the State Legislature would legalize crowdfunding equity investment of up to $5,000 in a company by unaccredited investors who live in the state

**Colorado Lawmakers Consider Stricter Snow-Tire Requirements**

*CBS Denver*

Colorado lawmakers are considering requiring snow tires or chains on noncommercial vehicles at all times during winter and spring months, an attempt reduce accidents and mountain traffic. The bill goes to the core of what's a maddening experience for skiers and other travelers to the mountain resorts who get stuck in traffic for hours because of accidents on Interstate 70. Democratic Rep. Diane Mitsch Bush, the proposal's sponsor, said road delays and closures "cost, depending on whom you talk to, millions per hour." Those economic effects are felt by the delays in the movement of goods and the tourism industry as people become weary of returning to ski resorts, she said.

**Another Bipartisan Workforce Development Bill Advances in the House**

*Colorado House Democrats*

The Education Committee voted 10-1 last Wednesday to pass Rep. Tracy Kraft-Tharp's bipartisan bill to provide better support and advice to Colorado high school graduates as they make decisions about post-secondary education and career choices.HB15-1170 creates a Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Statewide Coordinator to work with school districts, businesses, higher education institutions and the Colorado Department of Education to develop programs and best practices to help high school students decide which post-secondary path is right for them. The bill is designed to ensure that Colorado's workforce can fill the jobs being created in the 21st Century economy by giving high school students increased post-secondary options. The bill now goes to the Appropriations Committee.

**Colorado flood recovery efforts receive $57 million boost**

*The Office of The Governor*

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015 Gov. John Hickenlooper announced today that Colorado will receive $56.9 million from the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program to support continuing flood recovery efforts. The funding specifically targets ongoing conservation work and watershed projects following the 2013 floods "With the support of our federal partners, and the ongoing resiliency and strength of so many Coloradans, we continue to make progress on rebuilding," said Hickenlooper. "The 2013 flood was unique not just in size but because of the impact it had on the watersheds and stream corridors, which tie our communities, wildlife and natural areas together. These funds will help restore those connections damaged in the floods that are vital to Colorado's environment and our way of life." This is the second investment by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Colorado's recovery efforts. In 2013, NRCS awarded nearly $13 million to restore watershed and protect homes and infrastructure from further flooding. Today's award of $56.9 million is the second phase to help restore stream corridors, remove debris and prevent future flooding. Work will target about 500 sites in the flood impacted area. Hickenlooper joined Senator Michael Bennet and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to advocate on behalf of flood impacted Coloradans to ensure this funding would come to Colorado to help severely impacted watersheds. The state will work with NRCS to get this funding to impacted communities as efficiently as possible.

**The Calculator**

**House Bills Introduced: 251**

**Senate Bills Introduced: 191**

**Number of Bills PI'd: 86**