



Legislative Newsletter

June 3, 2013



*An up-to-date review of Colorado government and politics especially for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.
Compiled and edited by Axiom Strategies, Inc.*

"Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote." - Benjamin Franklin

Health Insurance Alignment and Medicaid Expansion Legislation Signed Into Law

Governor John Hickenlooper on Monday, May 13, signed legislation (House Bill 1266 and Senate Bill 200) that represent two key milestones for Colorado leading the country on implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). These bills highlight the strides Colorado is making in pursuing the Governor's commitment to become the healthiest state.

House Bill 1266 – Alignment of Health Insurance Laws

This bill, sponsored by Representatives Beth McCann (D-Denver) and Bob Gardner (R-Colorado Springs) and Senator Irene Aguilar (D-Denver), aligns Colorado health insurance laws with federal law, providing consumers, insurance carriers, agents, and other stakeholders with one set of health insurance rules. It also creates the regulatory environment to support Connect for Health Colorado (Colorado's health insurance exchange) in becoming a new marketplace for health insurance.

Jim Riesberg, Colorado Commissioner of Insurance, noted the work leading to this legislation.

"This bill continues the collaborative efforts from the Legislature, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform, the Executive Branch, business groups, health care providers, insurance carriers and consumer advocates to increase enrollment, improve insurance offerings, and focus on cost containment and quality improvement."

Senate Bill 200 – Expanding Medicaid Eligibility

This legislation, sponsored by Senator Aguilar and House Speaker Mark Ferrandino (D-Denver), will expand Medicaid coverage for low-income Coloradans to up to 133 percent* of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) beginning on January 1, 2014. The new eligibility standards will allow the state to cover an additional 160,000 adults. The expanded coverage will be financed through the hospital provider fee and enhanced federal matching funds made available through the ACA. The expansion of Medicaid coverage does not come at a cost to the State General Fund.

"Today is a historic day. We are moving forward with expanding coverage to low-income Coloradans," said Sue Birch, Executive Director of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. "This expansion will allow more than 160,000 Coloradans to gain access to Medicaid. At the same time we're increasing access to health care, we're working hard to contain costs to deliver more value for every health care dollar spent."

One hundred thirty-three percent FPL is approximately:

- \$31,332 for a family of four; and
- \$15,282 for an individual.

*Federal poverty levels are adjusted each year so the above income limits will change. Federal law allows for a 5 percent income disregard so those earning up to 138 percent FPL may be eligible.

Annual Public School Finance Bill Becomes Law

Gov. John Hickenlooper on Friday, May 17, signed the Public School Finance Act into law. Senate Bill 260, sponsored by Senators Evie Hudak (D-Westminster) and Pat Steadman (D-Denver) and Representative Millie Hamner (D-Dillon) increases

base per pupil funding to \$5,954.28 to reflect a 1.9 percent inflation rate. The bill also makes the following changes in the calculation of total program:

- establishes a minimum funded pupil count of 50 for each district;
- increases the number of slots in the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) by 3,200; and
- increases total program funding by \$51.8 million by reducing the negative factor.

In addition to changes to total program, for FY 2013-14 and beyond, the bill modifies the funding for other public school programs as follows:

- increases charter school capital construction funding by \$1 million in FY 2013-14 and beyond;
- refinances supplemental at-risk aid for charter schools, school districts, and the Charter School Institute (CSI) from audit recoveries to the State Education Fund;
- refinances the READ Act to change the funding source from the Public School (permanent) Fund to the State Education Fund;
- increases the annual amount transferred from the Permanent Fund to the State Public School Fund from \$11 million to \$16 million;
- transfers \$200,000 from the State Education Fund to the Great Teachers and Leaders Fund in FY 2013-14 only;
- increases the special education appropriation by \$20 million and requires that this money be used for Tier B special education funding;
- requires that 50 percent of the FY 2013-14 General Fund surplus be transferred to the State Education Fund;
- provides additional funding for facility school students;
- increases the appropriation from the State Education Fund for Nationally Board Certified Teacher stipends by \$1,339,200.

The bill also creates a new program, the *Quality Teacher Recruitment Program*, to assist in recruiting, training, and retaining highly qualified teachers for schools and districts with historic difficulty in retaining such teachers.

Future School Finance Act Signed into Law

On Tuesday, May 21, before a cheering crowd of educators and lawmakers, Governor John Hickenlooper signed Senate Bill 213, a rewrite of Colorado's Preschool through Grade 12 school finance policy. The revamped formula, which was a two-year endeavor by Senators Mike Johnston (D-Denver) and Rollie Heath (D-Boulder), has three goals: (1) improve the adequacy of our education system; (2) equitably distribute state funding; (3) achieve financial stability for Preschool-12 education in Colorado.

Notably, it would allow for full-day kindergarten for all kids in Colorado, and early childhood education for at-risk three and four year olds.

"Colorado has experienced detrimental cuts to education funding over the past several years. In addition to allocating greater financial resources for educators and students, this law creates a framework for maximizing that investment in programs that have the greatest impact on educational outcomes," said Sen. Mike Johnston, a former principal and co-sponsor of the bill. "Colorado is a pioneering state and it deserves an innovative education system."

In addition to early childhood education and full-day kindergarten, the rewrite of the school finance policy (SB 213) can be explained through the following five steps:

STEP ONE

Base funding: is to provide base per-pupil funding for grades K-12, as in the previous school finance formula. However, under the new formula, base funding will also be given for 8,000 additional three-year-olds and 17,000 additional four-year-olds to attend half-day early childhood education. In addition, it will provide base funding for full-day kindergarten, and restore the funding for online/ASCENT students.

STEP TWO

Weights: is to add funding for small districts, at-risk students, and English language learners.

STEP THREE

State and local share: is to determine how much revenue local districts are able to raise, and the state backfills the difference.

STEP FOUR

Categoricals: is to increase state funding for special education, gifted and talented education, and continue to fund the other categoricals.

STEP FIVE

Additional support: is to offer additional state support for mill levy match, innovation, and teaching and leadership investment.

The reform measure, while signed into law, only goes into effect if voters approve an approximately \$1 billion tax increase to fund reforms contained in the bill.

Twenty-seven measures related to the funding of our public education system have been submitted to the Legislature's Legislative Council, the beginning step for a measure to be placed on the statewide ballot.

Proponents of Senate Bill 213 are wrangling over whether to propose an across the board, flat tax increase or whether to propose a graduated income tax to fund the reforms.

***Denver Post:* Lobato Reversal Shifts Quest for Education Funding to Colorado Voters**

The Colorado Supreme Court's reversal of the Lobato school finance lawsuit, which handed a stinging defeat Tuesday to plaintiffs who for eight years sought greater and more equitable education funding, did more than settle a pressing constitutional issue.

It also shifted even more attention to the recently passed Future School Finance Act — a sort of Plan B that will seek financial help for schools from voters rather than the courts.

Although the court voted 4-2 to overturn Lobato and confirm the constitutionality of the current state system, the majority decision also acknowledged that it might not be "optimal." The ruling comes just weeks after legislators passed Senate Bill 213, spearheaded by Democratic Sen. Mike Johnston, to revamp the state's school finance formula.

The bill pumps more money into preschool and kindergarten programs and bolsters funding for at-risk students and English-language learners. It also revises the formula that distributes state money to schools to reflect a district's ability to pay a local share.

The legislation was, in part, an attempt to get out in front of the Lobato decision — no matter which way it went — and provide a remedy that would adequately and equitably fund schools in the state's 178 districts.

But it can take effect only if voters pass an estimated \$1.1 billion tax increase through a yet-to-be-determined initiative in November.

"I think this is going to add a greater sense of urgency to support the ballot initiative," said Johnston after digesting the decision. "Not winning at the Supreme Court means our greatest chance to provide adequate funding for schools is to do it at the ballot. It's our greatest and, now, perhaps our only chance."

The 2005 Lobato lawsuit, named for one plaintiff family from the San Luis Valley and later joined by districts across the state, contended that Colorado doesn't provide a constitutionally mandated "thorough and uniform" system of public education.

A trial court agreed, but the Supreme Court found that the current finance system is, in fact, "rationally related" to the thorough and uniform standard, which it said "is of a quality marked by completeness, is comprehensive, and is consistent across the state."

But the decision also concluded that such a standard does not demand "absolute equality" in providing schools with resources.

"While we sympathize with the Plaintiffs and recognize that the public school financing system might not provide an optimal amount of money to the public schools," said the majority opinion, "the statutory public school financing system itself is constitutional."

Plaintiff attorney Kathleen Gebhardt said the court "hit the fast-forward button to Colorado's race to the bottom on education."

"What we've seen over the past decades of inaction by the legislature is continued erosion of public education," she added. "I see that speeding up now."

The plaintiffs didn't seek a specific dollar remedy but did point to estimates of the state's shortfall in financing public education to be about \$4 billion, with nearly \$18 billion required for facility repairs and upgrades. Gebhardt noted this marks "the end of the line" for the Lobato suit, although she and her clients will have to regroup to determine whether they'll attempt other action.

The state attorney general's office argued that a plaintiff victory could have required the state to raise taxes by 50 percent or see K-12 education consume 89 percent of the general fund budget.

Calling the Lobato case a "distraction" from improving the state's education system, Attorney General John Suthers said that the court's decision puts the issue back before legislators, school boards and citizens — "not lawyers and judges."

"This case definitely resolves where the responsibility lies and is a victory for Coloradans everywhere," he said in a statement. "I am pleased that the debate on the adequacy of school funding will now return to the political branches and the people where it belongs."

Gov. John Hickenlooper said the court's opinion didn't necessarily say that education funding is sufficient.

"Even after working hard to add additional funding this year ... most people would agree that we are underfunding education," he said. "What the Supreme Court said was this (lawsuit) was not the right way to increase that funding."

Johnston said his legislation follows the court's prescription.

"The process of 213 and the ballot has followed the spirit of Lobato," he said. "And we were trying to be prepared for either outcome."

With the Lobato reversal, Gebhardt said she felt renewed worry that voters would perceive the court's ruling as confirmation that Colorado's school finance system is on solid ground. And that, she added, could influence how they come down on a ballot initiative.

"I'm not a marketing person at all," she said, "but I could see that people would say that if that is a ruling from the highest court in the land, then everything is fine."

Stakeholders already are jousting over what kind of mechanism should be proposed to raise the money — an increased flat tax or a tiered income tax system. One of 16 possible initiatives should emerge in the next week or two, and it could well involve some revision to constitutional law.

George Welsh, superintendent of the Center School District where the Lobato family lives, said he supports the legislation but will have to see which ballot initiative advances before making that call.

"It's not perfect," Welsh said, "but it's good — and better than the current finance act in the way it distributes dollars."

Ultimately, he sees it as more than just a step in the right direction.

"Now," he said, "it's the only game in town."

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Senate Minority Leader Bill Cadman (R-Colorado Springs) issued the following statement in response to the Court's ruling.

"The Colorado Supreme Court's decision on the Lobato lawsuit is important to all of us; it affirms the constitutional authority of an elected legislative body to represent the people of this state. This is such a core tenet of our Constitution that I am surprised the court's decision was not supported unanimously by the justices. The legislature is given the power to create a state budget for good reason - the people's money needs to be protected from any group who would use the court system to bypass the Constitution."

Governor Signs More Bills

House Bill 1001 by Representatives Dave Young (D-Greeley) and Cheri Gerou (R-Evergreen) and Senators Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) and Pat Steadman (D-Denver) creates the Advanced Industries Acceleration (AIA) grant program to distribute grants to seven specified industries: advanced manufacturing, aerospace, bioscience, electronics, energy and natural resources, infrastructure engineering, and information technology. Signed 5/15.

House Bill 1006 by Representatives Dominick Moreno (D-Commerce City) and Tony Exum (D-Colorado Springs) and Senator Angela Giron (D-Pueblo) creates the “Breakfast After the Bell Nutrition Program,” requiring every school with 80 percent or more of students eligible for free or reduced lunch to offer a free breakfast to each student enrolled in the school in fiscal year 2014-15. The program is expanded in 2015-16 and thereafter so that every school with 70 percent or more of students eligible for free or reduced lunch is required to offer a free breakfast to each student. Signed 5/15.

House Bill 1079 by Representative Max Tyler (D-Lakewood) and Senator Linda Newell (D-Littleton) creates the Joint Technology Committee to oversee state agencies, projects, and issues related to information technology. Signed 5/18.

House Bill 1080 by Representative Chris Holbert (R-Parker) and Senator Ted Harvey (R-Highlands Ranch) expands the type of industries that can claim the Aircraft Manufacturer New Employee Tax Credit. Specifically, the bill includes companies involved with the maintenance and repair, completion, or modification of aircraft. Prior to the bill becoming law, the tax credit was limited to new employees of aircraft manufacturing companies, excluding those involved in aircraft maintenance. Signed 5/13.

House Bill 1115 by Representative Beth McCann (D-Denver) and Senators Pat Steadman (D-Denver) and Ellen Roberts (R-Durango) repeals CoverColorado as of March 31, 2015. Signed 5/28.

House Bill 1142 by House Majority Leader Dickey Lee Hullinghorst (D-Longmont) and Senator Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) modifies four tax credit programs under the Urban and Rural Enterprise Zone Act. Specifically, the bill:

- Limits the amount of the Enterprise Zone (EZ) Investment Tax Credit that may be claimed during any tax year to \$750,000, allows credits above the limit to be carried forward for fourteen years, and allows the Economic Development Commission to waive the limit;
- Increases the New Business Facility Employee Credit from \$500 to \$1,100 for each new qualified business employee;
- Increases the Employer Sponsored Health Insurance Credit from \$200 to \$1,000 for each new qualified business employee; and
- Increases the Enterprise Zone Qualified Job Training Program Investment Credit from 10 percent of the total investment to 12 percent.

Signed 5/15.

House Bill 1156 by Representative Claire Levy (D-Boulder) and Senator Pat Steadman (D-Denver) repeals the adult deferred prosecution option and replaces it with an adult diversion program. The bill also creates a Diversion Funding Committee to review applications and allocate funding for diversion programs. Signed 5/28.

House Bill 1163 by Representative Daniel Kagan (D-Cherry Hills Village) and Senator Irene Aguilar (D-Denver) creates an emergency payment program in the Department of Public Safety for victims of sexual assault who need additional time to determine if they wish to pursue legal action. The program is intended to serve as payor of last resort for victims who require financial assistance to pay the costs of a medical forensic exam, which would not otherwise be covered under existing victim compensation programs. Signed 5/13.

House Bill 1193 by Representatives Tracy Kraft-Tharp (D-Arvada) and Mike McLachlan (D-Durango) and Senators Cheri Jahn (D-Wheat Ridge) and Ellen Roberts (R-Durango) creates the Advanced Industries Export Acceleration program to provide training, access to consulting services, and expense reimbursements for eligible companies for the purpose of increasing international exports from advanced industries in Colorado. Signed 5/23.

House Bill 1238 by Representative Beth McCann (D-Denver) and Senator Linda Newell (D-Littleton) allows the Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division in the Department of Revenue to issue a license to a medical marijuana business on the condition that the business receive its local license within 1 year. If a local licensing authority denies an application, the medical marijuana business' conditional state license is revoked. Signed 5/28.

House Bill 1245 by Representative Beth McCann (D-Denver) and Senator Pat Steadman (D-Denver) creates two funding mechanisms, and insurance assessment and a premium tax credit, to support the operations of the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange. Signed 5/23.

House Bill 1248 by Representative Randy Fischer (D-Ft. Collins) and Senator Gail Schwartz (D-Snowmass Village) establishes a procedure for the Colorado Water Conservation Board to approve up to three pilot projects that temporarily transfer agricultural water rights in the Lower Arkansas River basin to municipal water users. Signed 5/13.

House Bill 1254 by Representative Pete Lee (D-Colorado Springs) and Senator Linda Newell (D-Littleton) creates a restorative justice pilot project consisting of two new restorative justice programs in the 10th and 19th Judicial Districts and two existing programs in the 12th and 20th Judicial Districts. Signed 5/28.

House Bill 1290 by Representative Beth McCann (D-Denver) and Senator Irene Aguilar (D-Denver) changes the law that regulates excess loss or stop-loss health insurance policies used with health benefit plans for self-insured employers with no more than 50 employees. Signed 5/28.

House Bill 1295 by Speaker of the House Mark Ferrandino (D-Denver) and Senator Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) simplifies the collection of sales taxes from out-of-state retailers to meet the requirements of federal legislation known as the "Marketplace Fairness Act." Signed 5/28.

House Bill 1296 by Representatives Beth McCann (D-Denver) and Tracy Kraft-Tharp (D-Arvada) and Senator Linda Newell (D-Littleton) creates a task force to study and prepare recommendations concerning the consolidation of mental health, alcohol, and substance abuse disorder statutes concerning civil commitments. Signed 5/16.

House Bill 1301 by Representatives Su Ryden (D-Aurora) and Bob Gardner (R-Colorado Springs) and Senators Nancy Todd (D-Aurora) and Kevin Grantham (Canon City) creates the Procurement Technical Assistance Task Force to:

- Discuss management practices and create a management strategy for the future of procurement technical assistance centers;
- Develop a plan for the long-term funding and sustainability of procurement technical assistance centers;
- Formulate a framework for procurement technical assistance centers;
- Evaluate procurement technical assistance strategies in other states;
- Develop a public-private partnership to enhance the procurement technical assistance program; and
- Make recommendations as necessary.

Signed 5/24.

House Bill 1308 by Representatives Daniel Kagan (D-Cherry Hills Village) and Bob Gardner (R-Colorado Springs) and Senators Jessie Ulibarri (D-Commerce City) and Steve King (R-Grand Junction) allows a law enforcement agency to direct a wireless telecommunications provider to provide location information of a person with a telecommunications device without a court order when the requestor has probable cause to believe that an emergency situation exists and the time required to obtain a search warrant or other court order would exacerbate the risk of death or serious bodily injury to the named person or another person within his or her company. Signed 5/13.

House Bill 1317 by Representative Dan Pabon (D-Durango) and Senator Cheri Jahn (D-Wheat Ridge) implements major provisions of Amendment 64 by creating the Colorado Retail Marijuana Code. It renames the Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division in the Department of Revenue as the Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED) and gives the MED the authority to regulate both medical and retail marijuana. Signed 5/28.

House Bill 1318 by Representative Jonathan Singer (D-Longmont) and Senator Cheri Jahn (D-Wheat Ridge) creates an excise tax and special sales tax to be levied on retail marijuana and refers a ballot question to the voters at the 2013 general election for approval to increase taxes on retail marijuana. 5/28.

Senate Bill 7 by Senate President John Morse (D-Colorado Springs) and House Minority Leader Mark Waller (R-Colorado Springs) extends the repeal date of the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) from July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2018. Signed 5/28.

Senate Bill 174 by Senator Gail Schwartz (D-Snowmass Village) and Representative Steve Lebsock (D-Thornton) continues the Food Systems Advisory Council indefinitely and increases the size of the council from 13 to 15. Signed 5/28.

Senate Bill 181 by Senator Gail Schwartz (D-Snowmass Village) and Representative Randy Fischer (D-Ft. Collins) appropriates funds from the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund for specific water-related projects in FY 2013-14. 5/13.

Senate Bill 217 by Senator Evie Hudak (D-Westminster) and Representative Brittany Pettersen (D-Lakewood) authorizes the State Board of Education to consider the unique circumstances of students at alternative education campuses (AEC) when making determinations about the accreditation category for an AEC or for the school district or the Charter School Institute in which the AEC is located. Signed 5/28.

Senate Bill 223 by Senator Greg Brophy (R-Wray) and Representative Diane Mitsch Bush (D-Steamboat Springs) continues the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee until September 1, 2023, and adds two nonvoting members which increases the size of the committee to 17. Prior to its next repeal, the committee will undergo a sunset review. 5/28.

Senate Bill 225 by Senator Angela Giron (D-Pueblo) and Representatives Joann Ginal (D-Ft. Collins) and Dianne Primavera (D-Broomfield) creates the STEMI Task Force and the Stroke Advisory Board in the Department of Public Health and Environment to improve the quality of care to STEMI heart attack patients and to evaluate potential strategies for stroke prevention and treatment and to develop a statewide plan to improve quality of care for stroke patients. Signed 5/25.

Senate Bill 258 by Senator Mary Hodge (D-Brighton) and Representative Dominick Moreno (D-Commerce City) modifies the definition of the term “development permit” to clarify that the local government may determine the adequacy of water supply at the time of zoning, subdivision, site plan review, or other land use approval, but still only once.

Prior to SB 258 becoming law, a local government could not approve an application for a development permit unless it determined that the applicant had satisfactorily demonstrated that the proposed water supply would be adequate. Further, the term “adequate” was defined to mean a water supply that will be sufficient for build-out of the proposed development in terms of quality, quantity, dependability and availability to provide a supply of water for the type of proposed development. Signed 5/23.

Senate Bill 277 by Senator Irene Aguilar (D-Denver) and Representative Joann Ginal (D-Ft. Collins) requires the Commissioner of Insurance to develop a uniform prior authorization process for insurance carriers to submit and receive requests for prior coverage approval of a drug benefit. Under the prior authorization process, insurance carriers and pharmacy benefit management firms will be required to:

- • Make the process available electronically, but must not require the prescribing provider to submit a prior authorization request electronically;
- • Make certain items accessible in a centralized location on their web sites;
- • Use evidence-based guidelines, when possible, when making prior authorization determinations;
- • Include certain information in its prior approval notification; and
- • Inform a prescribing provider that the covered person has a right to appeal the denial of a prior approval request.

Signed 5/15.

Senate Bill 283 by Senators Cheri Jahn (D-Wheat Ridge) and Randy Baumgardner (R-Cowdery) and Representative Jenise May (D-Aurora) implements major provisions of Amendment 64, including:

- • Requires the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding criminal laws that need to be revised to ensure statutory compatibility with Amendment 64;
- • Prohibits open containers of marijuana in motor vehicles;
- • Allows for license revocation of certain care facilities if marijuana is consumed or cultivated onsite and prohibits marijuana at community residential homes or regional centers;
- • Allows retail marijuana businesses to participate in a responsible vendor program;
- • Makes marijuana subject to the same indoor air quality restrictions as tobacco products;
- • Encourages the POST Board to include advanced roadside impairment driving enforcement training curriculum in the peace officer training academy;
- • Allows retail marijuana stores to deduct certain business expenses from their state income taxes that are prohibited by federal tax law; and
- • Authorizes the Governor to designate state agencies to carry out other duties under the bill.

The bill will also:

- • Require the Department of Public Safety to study law enforcement activities related to retail marijuana; and
- • Require the Department of Public Health and Environment to monitor the health effects of marijuana.

Signed 5/28.

Senate Bill 285 by Senator Lois Tochtrop (D-Thornton) and Representative Angela Williams (D-Denver) makes the following changes to workers' compensation law regarding the resolution of disputes:

- Requires a claimant to be reimbursed if an employer, after notice of an injury, fails to provide medical treatment;
- Requires the employer, carrier, or third-party workers' compensation administrator to recalculate the average weekly wage, and begin payment of the wages based on the recalculated amount, after notice of termination of a fringe benefit;
- Requires temporary partial disability to be paid at least once every 2 weeks and requires an employer, carrier, or third-party administrator to provide a claimant a complete copy of the claim file within 15 days after the mailing of a written request;
- Clarifies when attorney fees and related costs may be awarded when unripe issues (issues brought prior to the exhaustion of available administrative remedies) are listed for hearing by an opposing attorney; and
- Extends from 18 to 24 months the amount of time that must lapse before an employer or insurer may request that an independent medical examiner determine maximum medical improvement (MMI) if the treating physician has not made such determination. This provision is referred to as the Division Independent Medical Exam (DIME).

Signed 5/28.

Bills to Protect Victims and Fight Violent Crime Signed into Law

Among the list of bills that were signed into law last week are three Republican bills that protect victims and help fight violent crime.

Senate Bill 227 is a bipartisan bill sponsored by Rep. Lois Landgraf (R-Fountain) and Senators Morgan Carroll (D-Aurora) and Evie Hudak (D-Westminster). The measure protects victims of rape from custody battles with their attacker by forcing convicted rapists to forfeit their parental rights to any child conceived from the crime. The measure brings Colorado in line with 31 other states that have passed similar protections for women who conceive a child as a result of a sexual assault.

"Our criminal justice system should be built to protect victims, not offenders," Landgraf said. "This bill upholds that principle and strengthens protections for women and children."

Second among the bills signed is House Bill 1241, which represents a bipartisan effort to ensure victims of crime will be notified when an offender is released from custody. Currently, County Sheriffs of Colorado administer Colorado's victim notification system. Federal grants helped create Colorado's victim notification system, but not its ongoing costs. House Bill 1241 relieves this local expenditure and allows the state to shoulder the program's ongoing costs by creating an appropriation from the state General Fund.

"This system provides an invaluable service and invaluable information to victims and their families," said state Rep. Bob Gardner (R-Colorado Springs), a co-prime sponsor of the measure with Rep. Rhonda Fields (D-Aurora).

"Crime victims depend on the information our victims' notification system provides to prevent them from being re-victimized," Gardner continued. "Information like the custody status of an offender provides some peace of mind to both the victims and their families and reassures them of their safety."

The third bill signed into law, House Bill 1195, was introduced by state Reps. Jared Wright (R-Fruita) and Dan Nordberg (R-Colorado Springs) to create stricter punishments for those involved in human trafficking. After it was introduced, Democrats amended the bill in committee to initiate a human trafficking study in Colorado and make recommendations for how best to combat the crime.

In Colorado, I-25 and I-70 are major corridors for human trafficking, which help the illicit activity generate an estimated \$60 million annually.

Division of Insurance Reviewing Hundreds of New Health Insurance Plans

Health Plans Must Meet New Federal Requirements for Individuals and Small Groups

The Colorado Division of Insurance is reviewing hundreds of proposed new health insurance plans designed to offer coverage to consumers and small businesses starting January 1, 2014. The new plans must meet certain federal requirements for benefits and premiums, as outlined in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This includes health plans sold through Connect for Health Colorado, the state's new health insurance marketplace. It opens on October 1, 2013, offering plans that begin in 2014.

Health insurance carriers had until May 15 to submit their plans for review. A total of 17 carriers submitted a combined total of 813 health plans for the individual and small group markets. These will be sold through Connect for Health Colorado, as well as outside of the new marketplace. An FAQ about the Division's rate review process and a chart of carriers and the health insurance plans they submitted can be found at www.dora.colorado.gov/insurance - click on "News Releases" in the "Quick Links" box.

"We are very encouraged by the number of health insurance carriers that want to participate in Colorado," said DOI Commissioner Jim Riesberg. "As the regulatory agency charged with ensuring a competitive marketplace for health insurance companies in Colorado, we believe that a greater number of carriers means more choice for Colorado consumers."

In the next two months, DOI staff will examine the plans to make sure they meet newly established requirements to provide essential health benefits, such as providing hospitalization, maternity and newborn care and wellness services. In addition, DOI will verify what portion of medical expenses the plans will pay, versus the consumers' out-of-pocket expenses. Based on the proportion paid, the plans will be categorized into the federally defined tiers: bronze (60% of costs paid by the plan), silver (70%), gold (80%) and platinum (90%). These percentages are referred to as "actuarial value."

A preliminary review shows that monthly premiums for the new health insurance plans vary widely, depending on what portion of medical expenses the plan will pay and what portion consumers pay in co-pays and other out-of-pocket expenses. In addition, DOI has already noticed that some of the rates have not met the new requirements, further demonstrating the importance of DOI's review.

"It's a new world for health insurance," said Commissioner Riesberg. "These will be new plans, with new premiums and new benefit packages, developed to meet new requirements."

Insurance companies must make estimates, assumptions and predictions about who will enroll and how people will use their coverage. DOI will watch for rates that seem extreme, either too high or too low. Over the next several weeks, carriers will also submit information regarding their marketing materials for these plans, along with information about their networks of doctors, hospitals and other providers. The Division will finish reviewing plans by July 31.

Denver Post: Health Care for All Colorado will Try for 2014 Ballot with Universal, Single-Payer Plan

Health Care for All Colorado will shoot for a 2014 statewide ballot vote rather than 2013, supporters have decided.

The progressive cause has launched an education effort across the state, but decided to take the extra year to gather support and earn enough of the tens of thousands of signatures it would need to make the ballot, said Director Donna Smith.

One of the group's slogans is that health care is a right, not a commodity. Most supporters are backers of "Obamacare" reforms passed by Congress in 2010, but argue they don't go far enough to guarantee health care to all citizens. In Colorado alone, hundreds of thousands of people will remain without health insurance because of gaps left in undocumented residents, workers changing jobs, and those who risk a penalty in refusing to buy insurance.

Health Care for All would put a payroll tax on all residents according to their income and asset levels. It would also ask Medicare and Medicaid, which use federal and state dollars to pay for more than a million state residents, to issue waivers allowing their funds to be pooled with the health care tax. A single administration would then make payments to health care providers like doctors and hospitals, on a common set of benefits.

A separate effort for a somewhat similar system was dropped in this past Legislature by Sen. Irene Aguilar of south Denver, a Democrat who also believes Obamacare did not go far enough. Because she wanted the Legislature to refer the issue to voters, Aguilar would have needed a two-thirds vote, including highly reluctant Republicans. She apparently was not able to win that extra support.

Denver Post: Colorado Sheriffs Sue over New Gun Restrictions

Colorado sheriffs upset with gun restrictions adopted in the aftermath of last year's mass shootings filed a federal lawsuit last month, challenging the regulations as unconstitutional.

The lawsuit involves sheriffs from 54 of Colorado's 64 counties, most representing rural, gun-friendly areas of the state.

The sheriffs say the new state laws violate Second Amendment protections that guarantee the right to keep and bear arms.

Opponents are criticizing the lawsuit as political maneuvering.

The filing targets Colorado laws that limit the size of ammunition magazines and expand background checks. The regulations passed the Legislature this spring and are set to take effect July 1.

To read more visit http://www.denverpost.com/ci_23269673/colorado-sheriffs-sue-over-new-gun-restrictions?IADID=Search-www.denverpost.com-www.denverpost.com.

Gov. Hickenlooper Orders Work to Begin on Colorado Water Plan

Gov. John Hickenlooper on Wednesday, May 15, directed the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to begin work on a draft Colorado Water Plan that will support agriculture in rural Colorado and align state policy to the state's water values.

"Colorado deserves a plan for its water future use that aligns the state's many and varied water efforts and streamlines the regulatory processes," Hickenlooper said. "We started this effort more than two years ago and are pleased to see another major step forward. We look forward to continuing to tap Colorado's collaborative and innovative spirit to address our water challenges."

An executive order signed by Hickenlooper directs the CWCB to utilize the work of the state's grassroots water process, the Basin Roundtables and Interbasin Compact Committee, in developing a draft report by December 2014. A final report should be completed one year later.

The Colorado Water Plan is necessary to address a variety of issues, including:

- • The gap between water supply and water demand. The Statewide Water Supply Initiative forecasts that this gap could exceed 500,000 acre feet by 2050. Moreover, the largest regional gap is set to occur in the South Platte Basin, the most populous as well as the largest agriculture-producing basin.
- • Colorado's drought conditions threaten to hasten the impact of the water supply gap. Indeed, the past two decades have been Colorado's warmest on record, dating back to the 1890s.
- • Colorado's water quantity and quality questions can no longer be thought of separately. Each impacts the other and state water policy should address them conjunctively.
- • Interstate water concerns are as pressing as ever and require Colorado to be vigilant in protecting its interstate water rights pursuant to its nine interstate compacts and two equitable apportionment decrees.

The Executive Order directs the CWCB to work with its sister agencies within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources as well as the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, the Colorado Energy Office, and other relevant state agencies as needed. Each of these agencies is directed to cooperate with the CWCB as needed on the Colorado Water Plan.

"Throughout our state's history, other water plans have been created by federal agencies or for the purpose of obtaining federal dollars," the order says. "We embark on Colorado's first water plan written by Coloradans, for Coloradans. Nevertheless, our past and current data and studies will aid in developing a plan for the future."

Joint Technology Committee Holds First Meeting

On Thursday, May 30, the Joint Technology Committee, established by House Bill 13-1079, held its first meeting.

The Committee was formed to oversee state agencies, projects, and issues related to information technology. The committee will oversee the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT), including its annual budget requests and any significant information technology projects managed or initiated by OIT.

The Joint Technology Committee make up includes:

- • Representative Max Tyler (D-Lakewood), Chair
- • Senator Linda Newell (D-Littleton), Vice Chair
- • Representative Jonathan Singer (D-Longmont)
- • Representative Bob Rankin (R-Carbondale)
- • Senator Owen Hill (R-Colorado Springs)
- • Senator Angela Giron (D-Pueblo)

In one of its first actions, the committee selected committee members Senator Giron and Representative Bob Ranking to serve on the Colorado Voter Access and Modernized Elections Commission. That commission was established pursuant to House Bill 13-1303.

The technology committee is scheduled to meet again on September 4 and may add an additional meeting to their calendar before then.

Governor Hickenlooper, Representative Angela Williams Join Colorado Advocates to Praise FCC Release of Connect America Funds

Advocates and leading elected officials in Colorado who support enhanced broadband access for rural America recently applauded the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) announcement that it would release the remaining amount of highly anticipated Phase I Connect America Funds (CAF). This recent installment of CAF provides critical resources to help connect rural America with the nation's critically important broadband infrastructure.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and state Rep. Angela Williams, Chair of the House Business, Labor and Economic Development Committee, joined rural advocacy organizations such as Colorado Grange in their praise of the FCC announcement. Nearly 18 million people in rural America still lack access to high-speed Internet despite the fact that today's global economy demands broadband access for everyone. In Colorado, 4.3 percent of residents statewide and more than 25 percent of the state's rural residents have no access to fixed broadband access according to the FCC's Broadband Progress Report.

"Technology plays a crucial role throughout our communities - from the delivery of our children's education to providing quality healthcare and expanding local businesses," said Gov. Hickenlooper. "We commend the FCC for releasing the full amount of remaining CAF 1 funding, with the goal of bringing much needed broadband access to rural Colorado and rural America."

"Colorado is very excited about the FCC's recent announcement to release Connect America Funds," said Rep. Williams, who also authored landmark telecommunications reform legislation this past session. "This goes a long way towards supporting expanded broadband in Colorado, particularly in our state's underserved and un-served areas. Connectivity encourages innovation, connects businesses, and improves access to a level of health care and education that moves our state forward."

Fort Lyon Provides New Tool in Statewide Effort to End Homelessness

The State of Colorado on Friday, May 24, announced the historical veterans' facility in Bent County will begin serving veterans and chronically homeless individuals from across the state in late August.

The 550-acre facility, which served as a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospital, sanatorium and prison before it closed in 2012, will offer participants supportive housing, health services, substance abuse treatment, counseling and job training to enable them to transition successfully into independent living in the community of their choice.

"Those referred to Fort Lyon will have access to the supports they need to maintain housing and a healthy lifestyle as they make the transition off the streets and back into their communities," said Pat Coyle, Director of the Colorado Division of Housing.

Last month Gov. John Hickenlooper signed Senate Bill 210 at the facility in Las Animas. The bipartisan legislation determines correctional officer compensation practices and designates the Fort Lyon property as a supportive residential community for the homeless.

Fort Lyon will begin housing 80 clients by late fall; this will increase to 200 by July 2014, and could maintain a maximum capacity of 300 by July 2015.

The repurposing is part of Pathways Home Colorado's ongoing effort to replicate best practice models, support regional priorities and become more strategic in preventing and ending homelessness.

"In order to put an end to homelessness in Colorado we need to think about new ways to serve the most vulnerable individuals in our state," said Leanne Wheeler, a formerly homeless U.S. Air Force veteran. "At Fort Lyon we have the opportunity to lower the public cost for supporting the chronically homeless by more than 60 percent,"

According to the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, individuals who live on the street cost taxpayers \$43,240 each year. Whereas, individuals who elect to stay at Fort Lyon will cost only \$16,813.

After at least one-year of residency at Fort Lyon, clients will be eligible to receive a Section 8 housing voucher from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to return to permanent housing in another community.

About Pathways Home Colorado

Pathways Home Colorado promotes collaboration between business, faith, individual and foundation partners to ensure that state resources are directed to projects that have proven success in eliminating barriers to housing and services.

Public Invited to Open Houses about High Speed Rail Study

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Division of Transit & Rail will be hosting three more open houses in the coming weeks as part of an Interregional Connectivity Study (ICS). Two open houses, one in Colorado Springs and one in Pueblo, have already taken place.

The study examines technology, alignment, and financial/funding options for implementing high speed rail along the Front Range.

The study has a broad reach, extending from Fort Collins to Pueblo including the Denver and Colorado Springs metropolitan areas, and builds off of past feasibility and technical studies related to high speed rail options across Colorado. The ICS team is coordinating with another CDOT study team to determine the feasibility of an Advanced Guideway System (AGS) from Denver to Eagle through the I-70 mountain corridor.

Members of the public and the media are invited to attend the second round of public open houses to learn more about this pioneering study and provide input to guide the team's work to this point. Each of the scheduled open houses will present the same information.

All open houses are scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for people with disabilities and for those who require Spanish translation. Please call Tracey MacDonald at 303-757-9753. The open house schedule is as follows:

Fort Collins/Windsor Area: Wednesday, June 5 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Windsor Recreation Center, 250 North 11th Street, Windsor.

Denver Metropolitan Area: Thursday, June 6 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at CDOT Headquarters Auditorium, 4201 E. Arkansas Ave., Denver.

Silverthorne (I-70 Mountain Corridor): Tuesday, June 11 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (date may change - meeting confirmation will be forthcoming) at the Silverthorne Library, 651 Center Circle, Silverthorne.

CDOT has established a website with more detailed information about the ICS at www.coloradodot.info/projects/ICS. For information about the AGS feasibility study, visit www.coloradodot.info/projects/AGSstudy.

Electronic Waste Disposal Ban Takes Effect July 1

Senate Bill 133, signed into law in 2012, limits the disposal of waste electronic devices (e-waste) in Colorado as of July 1, 2013. The law bans the disposal of waste electronic devices at solid waste landfills and requires sites receiving e-waste not already subject to the recycling facility regulations to manage used electronic devices in a manner that prevents the release of waste or waste constituents into the environment.

This new law will have sweeping implications for waste haulers, transfer stations and landfill operators throughout the state.

What devices are banned from Colorado landfills?

Waste electronic devices include: television sets, central processing units (CPUs), computer monitors, peripherals, printers, fax machines, laptops, notebooks, ultra books, net books, electronic tablets, digital video disc (DVD) players, video cassette recorders (VCRs) and video display devices with viewing screens greater than four inches diagonally.

What electronic devices can still be disposed of in Colorado landfills?

Appliances, non-hazardous industrial or commercial devices, motor vehicle components, or any type of telephone may still be legally discarded in a Colorado landfill after the ban takes effect.

Does the ban affect the entire state?

Yes, however, county commissioners may vote to opt out of the ban if no infrastructure is available and if the county cannot secure a minimum of two collection events per year or provide a collection facility within the county.

For more information visit www.colorado.gov/cdphe/ewaste.

Denver Reports Strongest Economic Outlook Since 2008

Releases Small Business Roadmap to Continue Momentum

Mayor Michael B. Hancock and the Office of Economic Development on Thursday, May 23, reported that the city's economy is strong and getting stronger, with unemployment down nearly two percent since 2011 and a record high labor force.

“Through strategic investments in our businesses and neighborhoods, we’re placing Denver on the map as a globally connected and globally competitive city,” Mayor Hancock said. “Never has the entrepreneurial spirit been more alive and well in Denver. That innovative spirit is fueling major job creation and broadening economic opportunity for us all.”

The forecast, provided by Denver’s Chief Economist Jeff Romine at a recent Small Biz Expo, reported growth in employment, retail sales and construction, plus a surging housing market, among other factors.

Other economic metrics reported include:

- 12,250 new jobs in 2012;
- 1,000 new business enterprises added;
- The average wage paid by Denver firms is now approaching \$60,000 annually;
- Denver’s resident labor force is at a record high, with 330,000 residents employed;
- Unemployment continues to drop, now standing at 7.3%, down from 9.2% in 2011;
- Denver’s housing market is the strongest in the nation; our home values are up 8.3% over the past year and 5.1% over the past five years;
- Consumer confidence is rising, evidenced by the 4.6% increase in retail sales and 9.4% increase in vehicle purchases; and
- Construction is on the upswing, with a recent tripling of commercial permitting activity and a doubling in residential permitting.

“There are many positive indicators that Denver’s economy is recovering quite strongly, showing better days ahead for our small businesses and the greater community,” said Romine. “We have mostly recovered from the losses due to the recent recession, and we’re very close to overcoming the employment setbacks of the 2002 recession.”

To continue the positive momentum, Mayor Hancock also released [“Smart Jobs: Small Business.”](#) a roadmap aimed to help foster future success for Denver’s small business community, which accounts for more than 40 percent of all small businesses (5-100 employees) and employs more than 186,000 people.

“Small businesses help create wealth for investors, foster economic opportunity for entrepreneurs and strengthen the fabric and character of our neighborhoods. That’s why the foundation of our economy is a vibrant and growing small business community,” the Mayor said. “We know that a smart city needs a diverse economy in order to thrive, and small businesses play a key role in researching, developing and commercializing innovative ideas.”

Denver’s Office of Economic Development (“OED”) invests approximately \$10 million annually from local, state and federal funds in programs to help small businesses succeed. The roadmap, part of the Mayor’s Peak Enterprise initiative and OED’s JumpStart 2013 economic development plan, will further help connect current and future small business owners to the quality services they need to grow and thrive.

Senate to take up Federal Immigration Reform Plan, Public Pessimistic Congress will Act

Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer (NY) on *Meet the Press* Sunday said he is optimistic that Congress will pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Schumer, a member of the Senate’s Gang of Eight, said he believes the measure will be brought to the Senate floor on June 10 to begin debate by the full Senate. He predicts the Senate will pass the bill by July 4.

The Gang of Eight earlier this year reached a bipartisan agreement on a comprehensive bill to reform our Nation’s immigration system. They introduced their measure on April 17, which was followed by the Senate Judiciary Committee taking up the bill in May. The committee approved the measure, S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, on Tuesday, May 21 on a bipartisan vote 13 – 5.

But even as the measure seems to be moving forward and Democrats saying they are willing to entertain amendments to garner solid Republican support, a new poll out from Quinnipiac University shows that seven in ten registered voters don’t think Congress will be able to work together to pass a bill this year.

Recent scandals in Washington are helping to fuel partisan divides on a host of issues, including immigration reform.

Florida's Republican Senator Marco Rubio told *Politico*, "The lack of trust in the federal government, and in particular, in this administration, makes it even harder to convince people that coming up with a plan like this on its own is good enough. So maybe the solution is to have Congress actually write that plan for them."

Rubio, also a member of the Gang of Eight, was referring to a provision in the Senate Judiciary Committee's version of the bill that says unauthorized immigrants could not transition into a probationary legal status until the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has laid out a strategy for the Southern border.

But Rubio's plan to have Congress, instead of DHS, write the plan to strengthen the Southern border drew criticism from those who pointed out that while the Obama Administration has been confronting numerous scandals recently, the public trusts Congress even less.

Even so, Democrats might be inclined to support Rubio's plan in order to secure more Republican votes in the Senate. Proponents are hoping to get 70 votes in order to pressure the House to act on comprehensive reform.

Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) told the *Huffington Post* nearly two weeks ago he's confident the House will "work its will on immigration" reform and come to a deal – he's just not sure how.

"We're not going to be stampeded by the White House or stampeded by the President," Boehner said at a news conference. "The Senate is working its will, a lot of good work that's going on over there, but the House will work its will. Don't ask me how, because if I knew I'd certainly tell you, but the House is going to work its will."

It is being reported that a bipartisan group in the House has come to an agreement on principles for a comprehensive reform bill, but details of the group's plan have yet to be released.

The House group includes Democratic Representatives Xavier Becerra (CA), Luis Guterrez (IL), Zoe Lofgren (CA), and John Yarmuth (KY), along with Republican Reps. John Carter (TX), Mario Diaz-Balart (FL), Sam Johnson (TX), and Raul Labrador (ID).

Some observers of the immigration debate feel the bill largely hinges on provisions in the bill that would benefit the agriculture industry, specifically giving dairy farmers better access to foreign labor.

Our current immigration laws provide no mechanism for the dairy industry to access foreign labor. The bill approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, however, would create three-year visas for foreign workers seeking employment in the dairy industry with those visas renewable for another three years, similar to what the Country's sheep industry has today.

Backers of immigration reform hope provisions in the bill like the one to provide access to foreign labor for dairy farmers will help win over Republican Senators.

The \$35 billion U.S. dairy farm industry contributes heavily to local economies and could be key to securing Republican votes. Wisconsin, Idaho, and Pennsylvania are among the top five dairy-producing states and together there are four Republican Senators representing them.

Similarly, the Nation's high-tech industry was able to secure unlimited green cards for foreigners with certain advanced U.S. degrees and a huge increase in visas for highly skilled foreign workers.

Utah's Republican Senator Orin Hatch led that effort, overcoming opposition from Democratic Senators wanting to protect U.S. workers.

Having scored a big win for the high-tech industry, Hatch voted for the bill in committee, helping boost its bipartisan momentum.

President Obama Announces His Intent to Nominate Katherine Archuleta as Director of the Office of Personnel Management

On Thursday, May 23, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate Katherine Archuleta as Director of the Office of Personnel Management. If confirmed, she will be the first Latina to head the agency.

President Obama said, "Katherine brings to the Office of Personnel Management broad experience and a deep commitment to recruiting and retaining a world-class workforce for the American people. I am grateful Katherine has agreed to serve, and I look forward to working with her in the coming years."

Katherine Archuleta most recently served as National Political Director for Obama for America, a position she held from 2011 to 2012. Prior to this, Ms. Archuleta served as Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Labor from 2009 to 2011. From October 2005 to May 2009, she served as a Senior Advisor on Policy and Initiatives for the City and County of Denver, Colorado. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation from 2002 to 2005. Ms. Archuleta was the Director of Professional Services for Davis, Graham and Stubbs, LLP from 2000 to 2002 and Co-Founder and Principal of the Center for Regional and Neighborhood Action from 1997 to 2000. She served as Senior Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy in 1997. From 1993 to 1997, Ms. Archuleta served at the U.S. Department of Transportation, first as Deputy Chief of Staff and then as Chief of Staff. She served as an adjunct professor at the University of Denver from 1992 to 1993. Prior to that, she worked in a number of roles in the Office of the Mayor of Denver from 1983 to 1991, including Deputy Chief of Staff. Ms. Archuleta received a B.A. from Metropolitan State College and a M.Ed. from the University of Northern Colorado.

Colorado Launches Open Registration for Film, TV & Media Crew Guide

On Monday, May 20, the Colorado Office of Film, Television, & Media ("COFTM") launched open registration for "Colorado Reel-Crew," a new online tool that will enable the state's film industry workforce and support service companies to showcase their skills and services to producers considering filming in the state.

Colorado Reel-Crew is part of the Reel-Scout platform, an online software utility created for film offices to provide state-of-the-art location management and location scouting assistance. The new Colorado Reel-Crew allows COFTM to effectively track, manage and promote local crew and local businesses that provide production support services for production companies seeking to film on location in Colorado. Residents with demonstrated production crew experience can go online and register their information into the database free of charge.

To register, residents can visit http://co.reel-scout.com/crew_login.aspx, select "register now" and follow the prompts to enter their information. Once the information is entered, incoming productions can identify local residents that can be hired to work on productions. Colorado Reel-Crew will be open to the public on August 1, 2013.

Reel-Scout has become the "gold standard" of location application software, and is currently used by more than 60 film offices and commissions in the United States. New features available to the public through this tool include location specifications, mapping and key word searching capabilities.

Gov. Hickenlooper Announces Boards and Commissions Appointments

The **State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund** uses state lottery and lotto proceeds to purchase and enhance Colorado's recreation areas, parks, wildlife, wildlife habitat and open space. The appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate. The members appointed for terms expiring April 15, 2017:

- Peggy E. Montano of Denver, to serve as a Democrat and resident of the 1st Congressional District, reappointed.
- Alan E. Schwartz of Snowmass Village, to serve as a Democrat and resident of the 3rd Congressional District and West of the Continental Divide, reappointed.
- Natalie Jo Rogers of Yuma, to serve as an Unaffiliated and resident of the 4th Congressional District.
- Heather Lee Carroll of Colorado Springs, to serve as a Democrat and resident of the 5th Congressional District, reappointed.
- Linda Jean Strand of Aurora, to serve as a Democrat and resident of the 6th Congressional District.
- Jason B. Brinkley of Aurora, to serve as a Republican and resident of the 6th Congressional District.
- James R. Spaanstra of Lakewood, to serve as a Democrat and resident of the 7th Congressional District, reappointed.

Colorado's 22 judicial districts have judicial district nominating commissions that select nominees for district and county judicial vacancies. Each district nominating commission is chaired by a justice of the Supreme Court, who is a non-voting member of the commission. The member appointed to the **21th Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission** for a term expiring Nov. 30, 2013:

- William Wade of Grand Junction, to serve as a non-attorney and occasioned by the resignation of Laura Lamberty of Grand Junction.

The **Colorado Commission on Higher Education** sets policies for all state supported institutions of higher education. The appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate. The member appointed for a term expiring July 1, 2015:

- • Kevin Lamar Reimer of Grand Junction, to serve as a member west of the Continental Divide, a representative of the 3rd Congressional District and as a Republican, and occasioned by the resignation of Larry B. Beckner of Grand Junction.

The **Private Occupational School Board** advises on standards for educational services in private occupational schools. The Board also grants accreditation to schools that meet the standards established by the Board. The appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate. The member appointed for a term expiring July 1, 2014:

- • Joseph James Wolf of Arvada, to serve as a representative of the general public who is employed by a lending institution located in Colorado and is familiar with the Colorado college access network, and occasioned by the resignation of Earl F. Douglass of Lakewood.

The member appointed for a term expiring July 1, 2015:

- • Richard Semakula of Centennial, a representative of a private occupational school, and occasioned by the resignation of Jennifer Lynn Sprague of Thornton.

The **Colorado Voter Access and Modernized Elections Commission** evaluates the implementation of the 2013 “Voter Access and Modernized Elections Act.” The members appointed for terms expiring June 1, 2015:

- • Jessica Signa Danielson of Wheat Ridge, to serve as an individual who has expertise on voting rights.
- • Elena Marie Nunez of Denver, to serve as an individual who has expertise on voting rights.

The **Examining Board of Plumbers** grants licenses to plumbers, and amends and enforces rules and regulations for the examination and licensure of plumbers. The appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate. The member appointed for a term effective July 1, 2013 and a term expiring July 1, 2015:

- • Robin A. Vidimos of Centennial, to serve as an unaffiliated member of the public-at-large, reappointed.
- • The members appointed for terms effective July 1, 2013 and for terms expiring July 1, 2017:
- • Janice K. Snidow of Thornton, to serve as a Democrat and a journeyman plumber, reappointed.
- • James Vernon of Fountain, to serve as a Republican, and member or employee of a local government agency conducting plumbing inspections, reappointed.

The **Hospital Provider Fee Oversight and Advisory Board** is responsible for working with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Medical Services Board to develop the hospital provider fee model, monitor implementation of the bill, help with preparation of annual reports and ensure that the Medicaid and CHP+ eligibility expansions are implemented as intended. The appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate. The member appointed for a term expiring at the pleasure of the governor:

- • David R. Livingston of Denver, to serve as the Chairman of the Hospital Provider Fee Oversight and Advisory Board.

The members appointed for terms expiring May 15, 2017:

- • David R. Livingston of Denver, to serve as a representative of a business that purchases or otherwise provides health insurance for its employees.
- • Dr. Jeremiah A. Bartley of Brighton, to serve as a member of the healthcare industry who does not represent a hospital or health insurance carrier, reappointed.
- • Madeleine L. Roberson of Greenwood Village, to serve as an employee of a hospital in Colorado, reappointed.
- • James E. Shmerling of Denver, to serve as an employee of a safety-net hospital in Colorado, reappointed.
- • Christopher W. Underwood of Evergreen, to serve as an employee of the state department, reappointed.

The **State Board of Chiropractic Examiners** is responsible for making rules and regulations dealing with the chiropractic profession in Colorado. It also grants licenses to qualified applicants, approves chiropractic schools and conducts hearings when necessary. The member appointed for a term expiring May 18, 2017:

- Michelle Shannon Wendling of Aurora, to serve as a chiropractor.

The **State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners** makes rules regarding brand inspection and livestock laws and regulates fees for stock inspections. The commission also sets service charges and procedures, administers the Estray Fund, licenses public livestock markets, and secures bond and surety on butchers and slaughterers. The appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate. The member appointed for a term expiring May 1, 2017:

- Daniel Patrick McCarty of Parachute, to serve as a representative of the non-confinement cattle industry.

The **Utilities Consumers Board** provides policy guidance to the Office of Consumer Counsel regarding rulemaking, legislative projects and general activities of the office. The board shall work to represent the interests of residential, agricultural and small business users of Colorado utilities. The members appointed for a term expiring July 1, 2015:

- Stephen B. Andrews of Florence, to serve as a member and occasioned by the resignation of Laurie Tebo of Divide.

The members appointed for terms effective July 1, 2013 and for terms expiring July 1, 2017:

- John J. Fleming, Jr. of Montrose to serve as a member, reappointed.
- Sanders G. "Skip" Arnold of Boulder, to serve as a member.
- Pamela A. Purvis of Lakewood, to serve as a member.
- Barbara Jean Fernandez of Longmont, to serve as a member.
- Monique M. Dyers of Denver, to serve as a member.
- Glenn Cooper of Denver, to serve as a member.

The **Wine Industry Development Board** encourages and promotes viticultural and enological research and experimentation for the maximum production and quality of wine produced in Colorado. This includes the marketing of wines produced in Colorado and as an asset to the state's tourism program. The members appointed for terms effective July 1, 2013 for terms expiring July 1, 2017:

- Jay Edward Christianson of Eagle, to serve as a representative of a licensed winery in the Grand Valley viticulture area.
- Bret Lee Neal of Cedaredge, to serve as a representative of a licensed winery in the Western Slope.
- Neil Gilbert Jaquet of Palisade, to serve as a wine producer.
- Douglas Ronald Kingman of Denver, to serve as a representative of a licensed winery in the Eastern Slope.

The Watercooler

The Legislature's Interim Water Resources Review Committee has announced its upcoming meeting dates. The committee is authorized to review water issues and propose legislation related to the conservation, use, development, and financing of Colorado's water resources. In conducting its review, the committee is required to consult with experts in the field of water conservation, quality, use, finance, and development.

Meetings Dates:

Thursday, September 26

Friday, September 27

Wednesday, October 9

Thursday, October 10

Friday, October 11

Wednesday, October 30

Thursday, October 31

All meetings will be held at the State Capitol in Senate Committee Room 356, and will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m.

The Committee has also scheduled two tours. The first will be the Gunnison Water Workshop, Wednesday, July 17 - Friday, July 19, at Western State Colorado University in Gunnison. The second tour will coincide with the Colorado Water Congress's Annual Meeting, Tuesday, August 20 - Thursday, August 22, at the Steamboat Sheraton in Steamboat Springs.

Pursuant to Legislative Council guidelines for interim committees, Friday, October 11, is the last day to request draft legislation, and Thursday, October 31, is the last day to approve legislative recommendations to Legislative Council for legislation to be considered during the 2014 legislative session.