



Legislative Newsletter



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*An up-to-date review of Colorado government and politics especially for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.
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**"Big thinking precedes great achievement."
-Wilferd Peterson**

Days Til Sine Die: 37

Governor Backs Return Of Presidential Primaries To Colorado

Colorado Public Radio

On the heels of voters expressing frustration over this year's caucuses, Gov. John Hickenlooper says the state should move toward a primary system for presidential elections.

The heads of both major political parties in the state have expressed similar positions.

Democratic caucuses earlier this month were overcrowded and caught party organizers off guard.

Voters reported long lines, and some were even turned away. There was enough of an uproar that Rick Palacio, chairman of the Colorado Democratic Party, offered his "sincerest apologies" to anyone who was turned away or gave up before they could cast a vote.

Colorado wants to regulate daily fantasy sports leagues - and they're OK with that

Denver Post

Colorado lawmakers are set to join about 30 legislatures looking to curtail, regulate or ban pay-for-play fantasy sports leagues.

A bipartisan bill introduced Thursday would create a Colorado Office of Fantasy Sports to draft rules that ensure the games are played fair and square and not as a front for illegal gambling.

And that sounds great to the Fantasy Trade Sports Association.

Regulation ensures consumer protections and bestows more legitimacy on games played by millions of Americans that have operated in a legal gray area.

Businesses brace for more closures during I-225 light rail expansion in Aurora

ABC Denver

A major intersection in Aurora is set to close for possibly weeks starting as early as Sunday night.

The Sable Boulevard and Exposition Avenue intersection will be closed as crews continue to build the Aurora Line/I-225 Rail.

The project will extend the current Nine Mile station north to the University of Colorado A Line, which will go to Denver International Airport starting April 22.

Senator: provider fee should be enterprise

Pueblo Chieftain

With the hospital provider fee all but off the budget radar for this year, state Sen. Larry Crowder, R-Alamosa, introduced legislation Monday to make the program an enterprise fund, exempting it from budget crunching and protecting it from the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights fiscal restraints.

An enterprise fund, such as Great Outdoors Colorado, the Colorado Lottery and the Colorado State Fair, stands separate from general fund calculations when it comes to TABOR. TABOR restricts state spending from going over a revenue and population model, unless there is a vote by the people to waive a refund.

"Hospitals can't simply stop treating people based on an inability to pay for care," Crowder said Monday. "In 1986, President Reagan signed the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act into law. This act ensures hospitals must treat everyone who arrives in an emergency department, regardless of whether they have insurance or money to pay."

Tuesday's election covers pot, broadband... and single-file cycling

Denver Post

Seven more Colorado communities will ask voters Tuesday to approve the sale of recreational marijuana.

At the same time, Parachute residents will be asked to decide whether more than half the town board should be recalled over a decision last year to repeal a ban on marijuana establishments.

Those conflicting ballot measures are among dozens of issues that range from taxes, broadband Internet service and - wait for it - mandatory single-file cycling that face voters in 117 Colorado municipalities outside Denver on Tuesday.

Firefighters say they'd rather be in a burning building than I-70

9 News

Lake Dillon Fire Chief Jeff Berino says he gets nervous when his firefighters head out on Interstate 70 for accidents.

"I worry about my firefighters' safety on the interstate every day," he said.

Many firefighters say I-70 rollouts are the biggest threats to safety - in fact, Berino says many firefighters would "rather be inside a burning building" than on the highway.

Colorado marijuana sales project to hit \$1.5 billion

KOAA News

Marijuana sales in Colorado grew by 93 percent last year and are expected to keep climbing. A report from the cannabis data analytics company New Frontier projects total medical and recreational marijuana sales will surpass \$1.5 billion in 2016.

John Kagia, Director of Industry Analytics for New Frontier, said the state's population growth and strong demand from marijuana tourists contributed to the growth.

"It reflects just how strong of a demand for adult use marijuana has been in the state," Kagia said.

Gov. Hickenlooper announces Boards and Commissions appointments

Office of the Governor

The Real Estate Commission conducts rulemaking hearings, makes policy decisions, considers licensing matters, reviews complaints and takes disciplinary action relating to real estate brokers. For a term expiring April 12, 2019:

- Richard H. Krohn of Grand Junction, who has expertise in subdivision development, reappointed.

The State Board of Parole holds hearings and considers applications for parole, and conducts all proceedings involving revocation of parole.

Effective April 18, 2016, for a term expiring July 1, 2017:

- Barbara Jean Kelley of Denver, to serve as a citizen representative, and to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Marjorie Barbara Lewis, Ph.D of Denver, appointed.

Gov. Hickenlooper announces Boards and Commissions appointments

Office of the Governor

Thursday, March. 31, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed these bills into law today.

Number	Title	Sponsors	Summary
SB 16-121	Higher Education Tuition Pledged for Bonding	Rep. Garnett / Sen. Tate	Concerning the percentage of tuition revenue that an institution of higher education is authorized to pledge for contracts for the advancement of money.
HB 16-1046	Designated Emergency Response Authorities	Rep. Kraft-Tharp / Sen. Baumgardner	Concerning the response to hazardous substance incidents under designated emergency response authority responsibility.
HB 16-1061	Military Installation Transportation Needs Planning	Rep. Carver & Rep. Nordberg / Sen. Todd	Concerning a requirement that the transportation infrastructure needs of federal military installations be given full consideration during the preparation of the comprehensive statewide transportation plan.
HB 16-1082	Change Name Area Vocational Schools	Rep. Garnett & Rep. Willett; Sen. Todd	Concerning area vocational schools, and, in connection therewith, changing the name of area vocational schools to area technical colleges and adding representation for area

HB 16-1085	Simplified Name Change After Divorce	Rep. Thurlow / Sen. Tate	technical colleges to certain boards. Concerning simplifying the process for returning to a prior name after a decree of dissolution or legal separation has been entered.
HB 16-1122	Remote Starter Systems	Rep. Everett / Sen. Hill & Sen. Marble	Concerning the use of remote starter systems on unattended vehicles.
HB 16-1144	Transparency College Courses High School Students	Rep. Becker J. & Rep. Pettersen / Sen. Grantham	Concerning transparency in postsecondary courses offered to high school students.
HB 16-1151	Alcohol Beverage Expand Penalty Mitigation	Rep. Pabon / Sen. Holbert	Concerning the expansion of penalty mitigation under the alcohol beverage laws for vendors meeting the definition of a "responsible vendor" as provided by law.

Friday, April 1, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed these bills into law today.

Number	Title	Sponsors	Summary
HB 16-1033	Travel Costs & Members Human Trafficking Council	Reps. McCann Nordberg / Sens. Kefalas & Newell	Concerning the Colorado Human Trafficking Council.
HB 16-1038	County Sheriff Optional Affiliation With FPPA	Reps. Melton & Salazar / Sen. Jones	Concerning optional affiliation with the fire and police pension association by a county sheriff department that does not participate in social security.
HB 16-1083	Western State Colorado University Role and Mission	Reps. Brown & Hamner / Sens. Donovan & Grantham	Concerning the role and mission of Western State Colorado University.

The Calculator

House Bills Introduced: 432

Senate Bills Introduced: 182

Number of Bills Pl'd: 122

Bills Signed by the Governor: 81