



# Legislative Newsletter



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**Apr. 11, 2016**

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

**"Destiny is not a matter of chance, but of choice. Not something to wish for, but to attain."  
- William Jennings Bryan**

**Days Til Sine Die: 30**

**Bills Signed by the Governor: 81 The battle over the state budget**

*9 News*

Colorado lawmakers are nearing approval of the state budget.

Democratic State Representative Millie Hamner and Republican State Senator Kevin Grantham, both members of the Joint Budget committee, joined Marshall Zelinger on last week's Politics Unplugged to discuss how the budget is created, the tough choices involved and the status of where this year's budget stands.

**EDITORIAL: It's not your grandpa's GOP thanks to a Colorado transformation**

*The Gazette*

It happened again. An underdog tapped the emotions of fed-up Republicans, tired of business as usual, and defied the widely assumed outcome of a major political event. Upsets seldom get bigger than this.

The Republican Party is getting a political blood transfusion. For Democrats, this may not be good news.

Colorado's GOP transformation progressed Saturday with the convention election of El Paso County

Commissioner Darryl Glenn to run in the Republican primary of the United States Senate. He won with 2,664 votes. Tim Neville, the presumed front-runner going in, garnered only 696 votes. Commissioner Peg Littleton came in third with 218. Tallies for four other candidates went down from there.

**"Ban-the-Box" Bill Set to be Heard Tuesday Afternoon**

*CACI*

HB-1388, sponsored by Representative Beth McCann (D-Denver), was introduced March 16th and assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. The bill is scheduled to be heard when the Committee convenes at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 12th, in Room 112.

### **Colorado Springs is pinning its economic hopes on an emerging industry to tackle hackers.**

*The Gazette*

Millions, even billions, of dollars could be in the offing for the city that becomes cybersecurity central in the United States. All that money is tied to changes in how the military and industry address cybersecurity -

### **Colorado House kills bill to increase local authority over oil and gas drilling**

*Denver Business Journal*

Gov. John Hickenlooper expressed frustration last week with legislation from his fellow Democrats to change oil and gas regulations before the Colorado Supreme Court has made any decisions regarding local fracking bans and before the work of a task force on the subject has been completed.

On Monday, a pair of Democrats in the Legislature gave him a hand, joining with House Republicans to kill a measure that intended to lay out the authority of local governments over oil and gas drilling operations.

An amendment by Rep. Tracy Kraft-Tharp, D-Arvada, first watered down House Bill 1355, sponsored by Democratic Reps. Mike Foote of Lafayette and Su Ryden of Aurora. In the form that it passed out of committee last month, the bill granted cities and counties new powers to limit the location of drilling rigs through zoning.

### **Crowder wants to be really clear about how he sees the hospital provider fee, you follow?**

*Colorado Statesman*

"The thing I'm trying to impress on people is we got to come out and have to have an adult conversation in this state about what direction we want to go," said state Sen. Larry Crowder, standing on the steps of the Capitol last week.

Crowder was talking about his support for House Bill 1420, which would reclassify Colorado's hospital provider fee in order to make room in the state general fund for additional hundreds of millions of dollars below the state spending cap put in place by the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

Crowder, a Republican from southeast high plains Alamosa, has got himself in the middle of a fracas.

### **Charter School Advocates Back Bill to Equalize Funding**

*Colorado Public Radio*

A big battle over school funding is brewing at the state Capitol over a proposed bill that would require school districts to share local property tax dollars with charter schools. Those are public schools with freedom from some of the regulations imposed on district-run schools.

Charter schools educate about eight percent of the state's 850,000 students. On average, Colorado's district-run schools receive about 20 percent more funding than independently-run charter schools. That's because school districts are not required to give charters a share of local property tax revenue.

"This idea of some of our students 'have' and some 'have not' is wrong," said Republican state Sen. Owen Hill Thursday. "It's wrong for our constitution and we're going to fix this."

## **Letter from Lt. Governor Garcia announcing Jennifer Sobanet transition from Colorado Dept. of Higher Ed**

Colleagues;

It is with a mixture of regret and congratulations for a job well done that I announce that Jennifer Sobanet, the Chief of Operations for the Colorado Department of Higher Education, has accepted the position of Vice Chancellor for Finance and CFO at the University of Colorado-Denver. Jennifer has previously held executive positions at Front Range Community College, Colorado State University Global Campus, and the Colorado Community College System, among others, and she brought that incredible experience to the Department at a time when we were facing a number of challenges. Along with that experience, she brought great management and leadership skills, a commitment to team building and professional development, a passion for the work of the Department and the Commission, and, most importantly, a personal warmth that will be irreplaceable.

Jennifer has led our HB-1319 efforts to create a new system to allocate higher education funding that recognizes and rewards student success, the effort to improve History Colorado's financial and management status, our Attainment Gap and Collective Impact initiative to increase credential attainment for under-represented students, our shared efforts to achieve the ambitious goals of our Master Plan, and the restructuring of our divisions and the professional development of our employees. I cannot thank her enough for the work she has done that made it possible for me to serve in the dual role of Lt. Governor and Executive Director of DHE. Without her support and active leadership, we could not have made the progress we have made and achieved the level of national recognition for our efforts that we have seen in recent years.

Jennifer will be with us through the end of May and she will help to support the transition to new leadership at the Department. While her loss is significant, I have great faith in our staff, our senior leadership team, and our Commissioners, and I know the good work of the Department will continue uninterrupted. Please join me in congratulating Jennifer on her next step and please continue to work towards our shared goals of insuring that all Coloradans have access to high quality, affordable and accessible higher education options.

Thank you,

Joe

Lt. Governor Joe Garcia  
Executive Director

## **Gov. Hickenlooper announces Boards and Commissions appointments** *Office of the Governor*

Thursday, April 7, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced several Boards and Commissions appointments to the Caring for Colorado Foundation Board of Directors and State Board of Registered Psychotherapists.

The Caring for Colorado Foundation Board of Directors was endowed in 1999 with the proceeds of the sale of Blue-Cross Blue-Shield of Colorado to Anthem Inc. Its mission is to promote and serve the health care needs of the people of Colorado. To do so, the Foundation makes grants in communities throughout the state to increase access to direct health services, to implement prevention programs, to share health information and to improve the health care infrastructure. For terms expiring on the date of the first annual meeting in 2020 of the Board of Directors of the Caring for Colorado Foundation:

- Judith Elaine Albino, PhD of Denver, reappointed;
- William Warren Jennings of Colorado Springs, reappointed;
- Patricia A. Braun, MD, MPH of Denver, appointed;
- Phyllis Kay Sanchez of Pueblo, appointed;
- David E. Henninger of Centennial, appointed.

The State Board of Registered Psychotherapists is a licensing and disciplinary board that oversees psychotherapists in the state.

For a term expiring July 1, 2017:

- John Alan Honeycutt of Greeley, to serve as a professional member, and occasioned by the resignation of Lisa L. Schrader, PhD of Littleton, appointed.

Friday, April 8, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced several Boards and Commissions appointments to the Advisory Committee on Licensing of Child Care Facilities, Colorado Commission on the Aging and Colorado Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities.

The Advisory Committee on Licensing of Child Care Facilities counsels the Department of Human Services on the licensing of child care facilities, including day care centers, family care homes, residential child care facilities and camps.

For terms expiring July 1, 2016:

- Linda Marie Osborne, M.A. of Denver, to serve as a provider, and occasioned by the removal of Patricia S. Kelly-Lynch of Lakewood, appointed;
- Heather G. Coin of Yuma, to serve a representative of state or local government with interest in and concern for children, and occasioned by the resignation of the Honorable Faye E. Griffin of Arvada, appointed;
- Courtney Lea Holt-Rogers of Lamar, to serve as a representative of the Colorado Department of Human Services, and occasioned by the resignation of Kerry A. Swenson of Denver, appointed.

The Colorado Commission on the Aging conducts studies and encourages other organizations to conduct studies of the problems of the state's elder people. The Commission works to promote and aid in the establishment of local programs and services for the aging and aged.

For a term expiring July 1, 2016:

- Debra Jean Herrera of Ignacio, to serve as a Democrat from the Third Congressional District, and occasioned by the resignation of Patricia Dawn Ziegler of Durango, appointed;

For a term expiring July 1, 2020:

- Debra Jean Herrera of Ignacio, to serve as a Democrat from the Third Congressional District, reappointed.

The Colorado Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities coordinates with state boards, advisory councils, and commissions established for or related to persons with disabilities; advises the governor and General Assembly on legislation and state policy affecting persons with disabilities; monitors the state's implementation of Title II of the federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990"; 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.

For a term expiring October 7, 2018:

- Bridget Anna Clawson of Commerce City, to represent the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Human Services, a state agency serving persons with disabilities, and occasioned by the resignation of Steven Eldon Allen of Wheat Ridge, appointed.

## **Gov. Hickenlooper Signs Bills Into Law**

*Office of the Governor*

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016- Gov. John Hickenlooper signed these bills into law today.**

| <b>Number</b>    | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Sponsors</b>                  | <b>Summary</b>   |
|------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>SB 16-012</b> | <b>Time To Reconstruct Residential Improvements</b>  | <b>Sen. Heath / Rep. Singer</b>  | <b>Concerning the authority of a local assessor to grant additional time for a landowner to reconstruct residential improvements that were destroyed by a natural cause.</b> |
| <b>SB 16-094</b> | <b>District Public Health Agency Costs By County</b> | <b>Sen. Crowder / Rep. Vigil</b> | <b>Concerning the shared costs of a district public health agency by the counties in the district.</b>   |
| <b>SB 16-127</b> | <b>Repeal Medical Clean Claims Task Force</b>        | <b>Sen. Tate / Rep. Arndt</b>    | <b>Concerning the repeal of the "Medical Clean Claims Transparency and Uniformity Act".</b>  |

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| <b>SB 16-010</b>  | <b>Off-highway Vehicle Powersports Dealer Purchase</b>    | <b>Rep. Becker, J. / Sen. Baumgardner</b>                                | <b>Concerning the purchase of an off-highway vehicle by a dealer.</b>                      |
| <b>SB 16-034</b>  | <b>Tampering With A Deceased Human Body</b>               | <b>Rep. Fields &amp; Rep. Lawrence / Sen. Sonnenberg</b>                 | <b>Concerning tampering with a deceased human body.</b>                                    |
| <b>SB 16-088</b>  | <b>Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access To Digital Assets</b> | <b>Rep. Willett / Sen. Steadman</b>                                      | <b>Concerning the "revised uniform fiduciary access to digital assets act".</b>            |
| <b>HB 16-1152</b> | <b>Department Of Corrections Medication Distribution</b>  | <b>Rep. Foote / Sen. Cooke</b>   | <b>Concerning the authority of the Department of Corrections to distribute medication.</b> |
| <b>HB 16-1353</b> | <b>FY 2016-17 Legislative Appropriation Bill</b>          | <b>Rep. Duran &amp; Rep. DelGrosso / Sen. Scheffel &amp; Sen. Guzman</b> | <b>Concerning payment of expenses of the Legislative Department.</b>                       |

## **The Calculator**

**House Bills Introduced: 437**

**Senate Bills Introduced: 183**

**Number of Bills Pl'd: 136**

**Bills Signed by the Governor: 89**