



Legislative Newsletter



May 17, 2016

14305 E. Alamenda Ave., Ste. 300
Aurora CO 80012
Tel: 303-344-1500
Fax: 303-344-1564
www.aurorachamber.org

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

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies."
-Groucho Marx

EDITORIAL: Legislative session ends with a dud

The Gazette

Colorado politicians wonder why so much legislation is done at the ballot box. They should look in the mirror. This year's session of the General Assembly will go down as a study in partisan gridlock and legislative sloth.

The 2016 session ends today as a lost opportunity, in which House and Senate chambers - balanced by opposing parties - could have compromised with a moderate Democratic governor to achieve bipartisan results for constituents.

Hickenlooper unsure if he will sign compromise bill on grocery alcohol sales

Denver Business Journal

Gov. John Hickenlooper said Thursday that he does not know if he will sign or veto a compromise bill on grocery-store alcohol sales, saying that he does not understand the measure yet and wants to ensure that it does not hurt small breweries and liquor stores.

A coalition of formerly feuding interest groups ranging from Wal-Mart Stores Inc. to independently owned corner liquor stores coalesced around Senate Bill 197 in the final week of the legislative session that adjourned on Wednesday night. They agreed to the measure - which would allow grocers to get 19 more full-alcohol-sales licenses in the next 20 years and require them to buy out the licenses of nearby liquor stores - because they viewed it as a better option than a proposed ballot measure that would allow all 390 grocery stores in the state to sell full-strength wine and beer by July 2017.

Embattled Keyser petition circulator fired from company

9News

The petition circulator at the center of forgery allegations involving signatures for Colorado GOP senate candidate Jon Keyser has been fired from the company that hired her to collect signatures, according to her company, Black Diamond Outreach.

The signature gatherer, named Maureen, is accused of forging several signatures on the petitions for Keyser. Those signatures were submitted to and accepted by the Colorado Secretary of State. The Denver District Attorney's office confirmed Friday that it was collecting documents to determine whether a criminal investigation is warranted. That process continued Monday, according to a spokeswoman for Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey.

20,000 Coloradans affected by insurers pulling out of exchange

Denver Post

Slightly more than 20,000 people in Colorado will be affected by the decision of UnitedHealth and Humana to exit the individual market and the state's health insurance exchange.

"It's not too much a blow to the system," said Vincent Plymell, communications manager for the Colorado Division of Insurance.

The exchange, Connect for Health Colorado, is the marketplace for consumers buying health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

The decisions by the insurers will impact 10,549 people who use UnitedHealth and 9,914 people who use Humana, the division said in a news release. About 420,000 people bought their health insurance in the individual plan market in 2015, both on and off the exchange, according to a survey by the Colorado Health Institute.

Colorado Technology Association names new CEO

Denver Business Journal

Andrea J. Young will succeed Erik Mitisek as CEO of the Colorado Technology Association, the group announced Tuesday. Young has been an executive with BI Inc. in Boulder for more than seven years, serving as CIO, CTO and vice president overseeing its engineering, software development and IT functions.

Bill to reduce tax exemptions for oil and gas companies dies

Denver Business Journal

House Democrats abandoned a plan late Monday to counter a court ruling and change the state's severance-tax rules, choosing to kill their bill rather than let Republicans filibuster it to death on one of the final nights of the 2016 legislative session.

House Speaker Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, D-Gunbarrel, and Rep. K.C. Becker, D-Boulder, introduced House Bill 1468 Monday in response to an April 25 Colorado Supreme Court decision that seemed to catch most in the Legislature off-guard.

That ruling requires the state to repay oil and gas companies for severance-tax deductions that the Colorado Department of Revenue wrongly refused to grant since 2003 - a tab that could top out at \$115 million.

State owes oil and gas companies millions of dollars

Durango Herald

With just days left in the legislative session, state lawmakers are addressing a "crisis" following a Colorado Supreme Court decision that found the state owes tens of millions of dollars to the oil and gas industry.

How that will impact local governments that benefit from severance tax dollars remains unclear, though observers say counties such as La Plata will see less money. One estimate from legislative staff says severance taxes will decrease by about 13 percent annually given the ruling.

The April 25 unanimous decision by the Supreme Court found that the state incorrectly disallowed a deduction related to transportation, manufacturing and processing costs.

Colorado lawmakers vow to try again next year on failed road-funding bills

Denver Business Journal

With two years of failed legislative efforts to address road funding in their rear-view mirror, leaders of the Colorado Legislature from both parties offered no alternatives Thursday - the day after the 2016 session ended - other than to say that they will bring back similar plans in 2017.

They also hope that voters can knock their opponents out of power in the November election so that they can finally push the measures through.

Both House and Senate Republicans said in end-of-session media conferences that they plan to reintroduce next year a twice-failed bill that would ask voters to sell \$3.5 billion worth of bonds to tackle major highway expansion projects.

Colorado students with reading deficiencies on the decline

Denver Post

Fewer Colorado students were identified as having a significant reading deficiency in 2015 - a statistic that has been steadily dropping since 2012 legislation designed to make sure all students were reading proficient by the end of third grade.

Last year, 13.8 percent (36,420) of kindergarten through third-grade students were identified as having a significant reading deficiency (SRD), according to a Colorado Department of Education report. That is down 2.7 percent, or 6,059 students, from 2013.

The department credits the READ Act, intended to identify reading difficulties in children early and intervene quickly to close reading gaps, with this decline.

Colorado welcomes Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne

Office of the Governor

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Chief Justice Nancy Rice today officiated the swearing-in of Donna Lynne as Colorado's 49th lieutenant governor. Lynne was nominated by Hickenlooper in March and confirmed by the General Assembly last week. She will serve in a dual role at lieutenant governor and chief operating officer.

"Donna's executive prowess and experience in both public and private business operations will help us make even more of an impact on programs across the state in this new role," said Hickenlooper.

"She has spent her career as a champion for families and communities and is renowned for her ability to listen, collaborate and then get it done. We are grateful for her willingness to serve."

As the chief operating officer, Lynne will work to create operations strategy and policies that will strengthen the efficiency of state government.

"It is truly a privilege to serve Coloradans in this role," Lynne said. "I look forward to working with the governor, the leadership team and state employees to ensure we deliver quality services to our residents with efficiency and effectiveness."

Before becoming lieutenant governor, Lynne was the executive vice president of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, overseeing more than an \$8 billion budget, 1.3 million members and 16,000 employees for Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

Lynne holds a Bachelor of Arts (Economics and Political Science), a Masters of Public Administration, and Doctor of Public Health from Columbia University. She is married to Jim Brown and together they have five children. She enjoys the Colorado outdoors and has climbed all of Colorado's fourteeners.

Lynne replaces Joe Garcia who stepped down in April to be the president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. Garcia held a dual position as lieutenant governor and executive director for the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

A search is underway in the governor's office for the executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

Gov. Hickenlooper Announces Boards and Commission Appointments

Office of the Governor

The Colorado Human Trafficking Council brings together leadership from community-based and statewide anti-trafficking efforts to build and enhance collaboration among communities and counties within the state, establish and improve comprehensive services for victims and survivors of human trafficking, assist in the successful prosecution of human traffickers and help prevent human trafficking in Colorado.

For a term expiring August 1, 2018:

- Sheriff Anthony Gerard Spurlock of Littleton, to serve as a representative of a statewide association of county sheriffs, and occasioned by the resignation of Sheriff Justin Smith of Fort Collins, appointed.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Council advises the Department of Public Safety's Division of Criminal Justice and the Governor on matters pertaining to juvenile justice in Colorado. It also assists, reviews and approves the annual Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Plan.

For a term expiring July 31, 2016:

- Nicholas Ryan Turco of Durango, to serve as a youth member, and occasioned by the resignation of Nkeonye'Asua Linda Egbune of Denver, appointed; for a term expiring July 31, 2020:

- Nicholas Ryan Turco of Durango, to serve as a youth member, reappointed.

The State Board of Optometry sets rules and regulations for administering examinations and conducts hearings to revoke, suspend, deny or reissue licenses.

For a term expiring April 15, 2017:

- Dustin Clark Anderson, OD of Woodland Park, to serve as an optometrist, and occasioned by the resignation of Paul Conkling, OD of Centennial, appointed; for terms expiring April 15, 2020:

- Donna M. Chen Ellinger, OD of Westminster, to serve as an optometrist, appointed;
- Kerry Kay Jarvis, OD of Denver, to serve as an optometrist, appointed;
- Penny Sue Lonergan of Colorado Springs, to serve as a member of the public, reappointed.

The Denver Metropolitan Area Regional Air Quality Council prepares air quality plans for the Denver metropolitan region to demonstrate and ensure long-term compliance with federal air quality standards.

For terms expiring April 30, 2019:

- Honorable Herbert Lorenzo Atchison of Westminster, to serve as a representative of local government in the Denver metropolitan region, and occasioned by the resignation of the Honorable Joyce Thomas of Federal Heights, appointed;
- Jose Paolo Diaz of Commerce City, to serve as a public member with appropriate land use planning experience, and occasioned by the resignation of Robert Duane Murphy of Lakewood, appointed.

The Radiation Advisory Committee provides technical advice to the Department of Public Health and Environment relating to the radiation control program. The radiation control program regulates the possession, use and disposal of radioactive material and radiation producing machines.

For a term expiring January 1, 2019:

- Robert K. Ryu, MD, FSIR of Denver, to serve as a representative of the healing arts, and occasioned by the resignation of Phillip J. Koo, MD of Denver, appointed.

The Board of Directors of the Denver Metropolitan Football Stadium District oversees the renovation and maintenance of Sports Authority Field at Mile High. The Board handles the negotiations with the franchise concerning construction costs and other expenses. The Board also provides the counties within the district with portions of the revenues collected from Sports Authority Field at Mile High.

For terms expiring May 23, 2018:

- Joy S. Burns of Cherry Hills Village, reappointed;
- Roy Palmer of Littleton, reappointed.

Gov. Hickenlooper Signs Bills Into Law

Office of the Governor

Thursday, May 12, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed this bill into law today.

Number	Title	Sponsors	Summary
HB 16-1005	Residential Precipitation Collection	Reps. Esgar & Danielson / Sen. Merrifield	Concerning the use of rain barrels to collect precipitation from a residential rooftop for nonpotable outdoor uses.

Monday, May 16, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed these bills into law today.

Number	Title	Sponsors	Summary
SB 16-138	Study Delegating Division Motor Vehicle Functions	Rep. Priola / Sen. Scott	Concerning a study of the delegation of functions of certain regulations related to motor vehicles administered by the Department of Revenue.
SB 16-168	Local Gov From Adjoining State in Airport Authority	Rep. Brown / Sen. Roberts	Concerning the ability of a political subdivision from an adjoining state to jointly operate an airport in Colorado.
SB 16-174	Colorado Water Conservation Board	Reps. Coram & Vigil / Sen.	Concerning the funding of Colorado Water Conservation Board projects, and, in connection

Construction Fund Project Sonnenberg

therewith, making appropriations.

Total House Bills: 468

Total Senate Bills: 218

Bills Signed By the Governor: 180

More than 50+ bills have been sent to the Governor and are awaiting his approval or veto.