April 20, 2015

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

***"It's not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what is required."***

***- Winston Churchill***

**Days Til Sine Die: 16**

**Senate gives construction defects bill final vote, despite concerns**

*The Denver Post*

A measures designed to limit homeowner lawsuits for construction defects advanced Tuesday to the House, where it faces a difficult path forward. The Senate approved SB 177 on a final 24-11 vote with the majority of Democrats opposed. The supporters say the bill - sponsored by Senate GOP leader Mark Scheffel of Parker and Democratic Sen. Jesse Ulibarri of Westminster - will help boost the construction of condominiums at a time in which the state's urban population is booming. But critics cast doubts on its potential and want to maintain the ability of homeowners to sue for faulty construction. The measure would make mediation or arbitration the preferred method of dispute resolution and require all homeowners in an association to approve of legal action.

**Urban-renewal reform returns to Legislature, meeting business opposition**

*The Denver Business Journal*

County-government leaders have brought back a bill to rein in the urban-renewal process that was vetoed last year by Gov.John Hickenlooper, and this year they believe they have enough momentum and support to push the measure into law. Opposing them once again will be municipal officials and Denver-area business leaders who say that the restrictions proposed by House Bill 1348 are set up as roadblocks that will greatly curtail the ability to use tax-increment financing to encourage companies to redevelop blighted inner-city areas. HB 1348, sponsored by House Speaker Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, D-Gunbarrel, and Rep. Polly Lawrence, R-Roxborough Park, would increase the number of people sitting on Urban Renewal Authority boards to include county commissioners and any representatives of school districts or special districts whose revenue would be impacted by tax-increment financing**.**

**Colorado "right to rest" homeless bill gets testimony in House committee**

*The Denver Post*

State legislation that would allow homeless people to sleep or accept food where they wish, including public benches and parked cars, got 40 minutes of testimony but not a vote in a House committee Wednesday. The Colorado Right to Rest Act would allow anyone who feels discriminated against to sue for $1,000 damages plus lawyer’s fees. Because of two hours of testimony on an earlier bill, the committee ran out of time before other committee meetings forced an adjournment. More testimony and a vote could be taken before the session ends May 6, but the bill, if it gets out of committee, would still have to have two votes on separate days on the House floor then advance to the Senate to start over.

HB 15-1348 passed the House on third reading this morning and will now head over to the Senate. SB 15-135 passed the Senate on second reading this morning, with an amendment intended to beef up the bill without a revenue sharing component. SB 15-135 will be heard on third reading in the Senate before making its way over to the House.

**Colorado bill to restrict use of student data delayed in committee**

*The Denver Post*

A Colorado bill restricting technology companies from using or selling student data to create profiles or target advertising was laid over Wednesday halfway through testimony. The House Education Committee had limited time during Wednesday's meeting and only managed to get through about half of the people signed up to speak to lawmakers about the proposed law. The committee will hear the rest of the testimony Friday but will likely hold off on voting until next week. The bill, Senate Bill 173, already made it through the Senate with bipartisan support.

**Colorado equity-crowdfunding bill signed into law**

*The Denver Business Journal*

A measure that allows non-accredited investors in Colorado to purchase stock in local companies has been signed into law. Officials hope the equity-crowdfunding measure will unlock significant new funding sources for Colorado's booming startup and entrepreneurial scene. Gov. John Hickenlooper put his signature on the bill Monday. House Bill 1246, introduced in February, legalizes crowdfunding equity investments of up to $5,000 in a company by unaccredited investors who live in Colorado.

**Colorado's health exchange to spend $5.1M on IT fix**

*The Denver Business Journal*

Colorado's health exchange board voted unanimously last Monday to spend another $5.1 million to fix a shared IT system with the state that has caused problems for thousands of customers. Previously, the problematic IT system had cost Connect for Health Colorado at least $6 million. Colorado taxpayers will be on the hook for additional costs for the system for the state's portion of fixes through Medicaid and the state Office of Information Technology. Medicaid officials did not specify Monday how much their share of the fixes would cost.

**Colorado House gives initial OK to felony DUI law for 4-time offenders**

*The Denver Post*

A bill that would turn a person's fourth drunk-driving conviction from a misdemeanor to a felony passed a Colorado House of Representatives voice vote unanimously on Tuesday. After a roll call vote later this week, the bill could move to the Senate for committee hearings. The bill was amended from a felony for a third conviction in seven years to four in a lifetime. A top priority of Gov. John Hickenlooper, the measure brought emotional testimony at its first hearing in February. "It's time to say enough is enough," Rep. Beth McCann, D-Denver, the bill's sponsor, said Tuesday. "We're not going to tolerate people continuing to drive while intoxicated. It's enough." Republican Rep. Lori Saine, R-Dacono, also spoke for the bill Tuesday.

**Gov. Hickenlooper announces Boards and Commissions appointments**

*The Office of the Governor*

On Wednesday, April 15, 2015 Gov. John Hickenlooper announced several Boards and Commissions appointments. The appointments were to the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council, and the State Board of Health.

The State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council advises the Dept. of Public Health on all matters relating to emergency medical and trauma services programs. The council's duties include developing curricula for the training of emergency medical personnel, establishing requirements for ambulance vehicles and services, and determining the eligibility of facilities to receive trauma center designation. For a term expiring July 1, 2017:

• Kim Mariko Muramoto, RN, BS of Lone Tree, as a trauma nurse coordinator, and as a Republican and occasioned by the resignation of Stephanie T. Harrison, RN, BSN, CPEN, CEN of Centennial, appointed.

The State Board of Health advises the executive director of the department on all matters relating to public health and determines policies for the department to follow in administering and enforcing the public health laws of the state. For a term expiring March 1, 2019:

• Raymond O. Estacio, MD of Denver, a resident of the 1st Congressional District, a Democrat and to serve as an at-large representative, and occasioned by the resignation of Alejandro Vera of Denver, appointed.

**The Calculator**

**House Bills Introduced: 370**

**Senate Bills Introduced: 269**

**Number of Bills PI'd: 184**

**Bills Signed by the Governor: 136**