



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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"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

Mattie Stepanek

Special legislative session to fix a Colorado pot-tax error is underway. But will anything get done?

Denver Post

Colorado lawmakers returned to the Capitol for a rare special session Monday - but don't expect much to happen.

The Republican-led Senate is poised to adjourn as early as Tuesday without taking action to fix an inadvertent error in legislation that prevented special districts from collecting a tax on marijuana.

Senate President Kevin Grantham, R-Canon City, said Republican lawmakers are not convinced the legislation is needed at this point and still have questions related to whether the measure requires voter approval.

"We still have some deep-seated constitutional concerns about this so-called fix that is being pushed by the (governor) and by interests outside the capitol," he told reporters. "Those are not concerns we take lightly."

The controversy is focused on Senate Bill 267, a far-reaching spending bill approved by the legislation before the session adjourned in May. Republicans and Democrats agree the measure made inadvertent mistakes; the issue is how to fix it.

Colorado Senate Republicans kill first special session bill

Colorado Politics

The Senate Transportation Committee Monday afternoon killed the first of two bills that attempted to address a drafting error that cut nine special districts out of marijuana sales taxes.

The committee, which has three Republicans and two Democrats, voted along party-lines to kill Senate Bill 17B-001, which would have restored those districts' authority to collect a portion of the special sales taxes levied on recreational marijuana sales.

The special districts claim they will lose up to \$7 million in 2017-18 from the error.

It's official: Walker Stapleton joins the race for Colorado governor

Colorado Politics

State Treasurer Walker Stapleton is officially in the race for governor, Colorado Politics is the first to report.

His agenda features support for the oil and gas industry, addressing Colorado's road-and-bridge needs without a tax hike and ending the state healthcare exchange created under Obamacare for more affordable and sustainable programs.

Stapleton promised to be decisive and clear on big problems. He has a history of that as the lead campaigner on a handful of statewide issues that his Democratic opposition is sure to remind voters about, if he makes it out of the Republican primary.

Some first aid is on the way for Colorado's opioid crisis

Colorado Politics

In places across Colorado that have been hit hard by the opioid crisis there are few resources, especially for those who've served in the military and find themselves with a substance-abuse problem. This week the state learned it'll get nearly \$400,000 for veteran drug courts.

The Department of Justice grant is being awarded to the Colorado Judicial Department, which has just a handful of courts aimed at veterans with trauma spectrum disorders. That can range from PTSD to substance abuse or other mental health challenges.

Pueblo, among the worst for opioid addiction in the state, and El Paso County, with a heavy military presence, each have a veteran treatment court. And Denver's drug court has a veteran's track. Even so, resources for veterans with substance abuse problems can be limited.

Gov. Hickenlooper announces resignation of Executive Director Ellen Golombek from Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Office of Gov. John Hickenlooper

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017 - Gov. Hickenlooper today announced Ellen Golombek will be leaving her role as Executive Director of the Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) to pursue an opportunity with a national workforce advocacy agency.

"Ellen has transformed the Department of Labor and Employment in her seven years of leadership and worked tirelessly to advance the agency's support for Colorado workers and businesses," said Governor John Hickenlooper. "She brought together coalitions to advance workforce solutions, led regulatory reforms on behalf of business and created a culture of engagement and accountability within CDLE. She will be missed."

Hickenlooper appointed Golombek to lead CDLE in January of 2011. She was among the first of the Governor's Cabinet appointees. From the beginning of her tenure as Executive Director at CDLE, Golombek strengthened the agency's outreach to employers and workers and forged a network of partners that continues to transform every aspect of service delivery at the agency.

"Words can't describe how honored I am to have worked alongside my Cabinet colleagues on important state issues and in partnership with the staff of CDLE to help better serve Colorado citizens," said Executive Director Ellen Golombek.

Golombek instituted a number of reforms on behalf of Colorado businesses and workers during her tenure. Among her accomplishments, she successfully led the 2012 effort to issue \$625 million in unemployment compensation bonds thereby making the unemployment insurance trust fund solvent. Doing so turned off the solvency surcharge that had been assessed against Colorado businesses since 2004 and eliminated the interest payments on money borrowed from the federal government to pay unemployment benefits.

Under Ellen's leadership, the agency has been instrumental in the creation of a workforce system that better meets the needs of Colorado businesses. Business leaders from industries with the highest growth rates were brought together in "sector partnerships" with workforce professionals and educators. Together, they are developing an economic ecosystem that will ensure that education, training, and workforce systems are responsive to the needs of Colorado businesses.

Ellen has also taken a lead role in promoting work-based learning, an approach that combines skills training with hands-on instruction in the workplace, including internships, on-the-job training and apprenticeships. She served as co-chair of the Governor's Business Experiential Learning (BEL) Commission which is ensuring that students, job seekers, workers, and businesses can find the tools, programs, and resources they need to design their own unique paths to success. The BEL Commission has been instrumental in creating CareerWise Colorado, an initiative that promotes apprenticeships among businesses, students and educators.

Golombek will leave her position on Oct. 31, 2017.

Gov. Hickenlooper Announces Boards and Commission Appointments

Office of the Governor

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the Colorado Dental Board, Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators, State Board of Pharmacy and Physical Therapy Board.

The Colorado Dental Board makes rules and regulations, examines and licenses dentists and dental hygienists, and conducts hearings regarding the suspension or revocation of licenses.

For a term expiring Jan. 1, 2019:

- Vidhyalakshmi Sampath, DDS, BDS of Englewood, to serve as a dentist, and occasioned by the resignation of Gail N. Raether, DDS of Littleton, appointed.

The Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators licenses nursing home operators and may conduct hearings to revoke, suspend, deny or reissue licenses.

For a term expiring July 1, 2021:

- Lori Louise Randall, RN of Fruita, to serve as representative of nursing home administrators and of a continuum care administration, appointed.

The State Board of Pharmacy examines applicants, holds disciplinary hearings to issue and revoke pharmaceutical licenses and inspects pharmacies.

For a term expiring July 1, 2019:

- Neill Finnes Piland, DrPH of Fort Collins, to serve as a non-pharmacist and as an Unaffiliated, and occasioned by the resignation of Vicki C. Pyne of Arvada, appointed.

The Physical Therapy Board is responsible the regulations of the practice of physical therapy in Colorado; grants licenses to qualified applicants; adopts all reasonable and necessary rules for the administration and enforcement of regulations; supervises unlicensed persons by physical therapists, taking into account the education and training of the unlicensed individuals; and the physical therapy of animals, including without limitation, education and clinical requirements for the performance of physical therapy of animals and the procedure for handling complaints to the Department of Regulatory Agencies regarding physical therapy of animals.

For a term expiring Jan. 1, 2020:

- Cordelia Robinson Rosenberg of Denver, to serve as a member of the public, and occasioned by the resignation of Bau Phuoc Tran of Castle Rock, appointed.

Friday, Sept. 22, 2017 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the Developmental Disabilities Council and Fire and Police Pension Association.

The Developmental Disabilities Council coordinates services and advocates for persons with developmental disabilities.

Effective Sept. 30, 2017 for a term expiring July 1, 2018:

- Jennifer C. Martinez of Fort Lupton, to serve as a representative of Titles V and XIX of the Social Security Act, and occasioned by the resignation of Barbara D. Ramsey of Denver, appointed.

The Fire and Police Pension Association is a local governmental unit that administers a state-wide pension plan for full-time paid police officers and firefighters.

For terms expiring Sept. 1, 2021:

- Suzanne Janeen Morgan of Lone Tree, to serve as a representative of Colorado municipal employers, reappointed;
- Shawn Michael Turner of Denver, to serve as an individual from the State's financial or business community experienced in personnel or corporate administration, appointed.

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the Education Leadership Council.

The Education Leadership Council convenes a multi-stakeholder group to develop a strategic plan to drive improvements to Colorado's P-20 educational system in alignment with our workforce system and includes all elements of the P-20 educational system and connection points with the workforce system.

The Council also provides a forum to discuss policy, legislative and financial initiatives that could be created, implemented or promoted for the purpose of addressing the state's early childhood efforts and world-class postsecondary programs and institutions that link directly to the workforce system and prepare students for successful entry into formal education.

For terms expiring Aug. 4, 2019:

- Katy Quigley Anthes of Denver, to serve as Co-chair of the Council, appointed;
- Honorable Janet P. Buckner of Aurora, to serve as a local elected official with experience and interest in the education system, appointed;
- Stephanie Copeland of Denver, to serve as the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development and International Trade, appointed;
- Ellen J. Golombek of Denver, to serve as the Executive Director of the Department of Labor and Employment, appointed;
- Honorable Millie Anne Hamner of Dillon, to serve as a local elected official with experience and interest in the education system, appointed;
- Honorable Donna Lynne of Denver, to serve as a local elected official with experience and interest in the education system, appointed;
- Mary Anne Meacham-Snyder of Lakewood, to serve as the designee of the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services, appointed;
- Honorable Robert "Bob" Rankin of Carbondale, to serve as a local elected official with experience and interest in the education system, and as Co-Chair, appointed;
- Kim Hunter Reed, PhD of Denver, to serve as the Executive Director of the Department of Higher Education, appointed;
- Angelika Theresa Schroeder of Boulder, to serve as the Chair of the State Board of Education, appointed;
- Honorable Nancy Todd of Aurora, to serve as a local elected official with experience and interest in the education system, appointed;

For terms expiring Aug. 4, 2020:

- Don Lee Anderson of Burlington, to serve as an additional member chosen by the Governor, appointed;
- Felicia A. Casto of Whitewater, to serve as a classroom teacher, appointed;

- Luis Alberto Colon of Lone Tree, to serve as the Chair of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, appointed;
- Patricia Anne Erjavec, PhD of Pueblo, to serve as a member who is a postsecondary administrator representing the two-year sector, appointed;
- Tim Foster of Grand Junction, to serve as a member who is a postsecondary administrator representing the four-year sector, appointed;
- Richard Lorin Garcia of Erie, to serve as an individual with experience and interest in the education system, appointed;
- Brandon LaChance of Steamboat Springs, to serve as a school superintendent, appointed;
- Barbara Jack O'Brien of Denver, to serve as a member of a local school board, appointed;
- Honorable Kevin Priola of Henderson, to serve as a local elected official with experience and interest in the education system, appointed;
- Sue Elizabeth Renner of Denver, to serve as an individual with experience and interest in the education system, appointed;
- Kyle Andrew Sickman of Denver, to serve as a business member of the Colorado Workforce Development Council, appointed;
- Daniel J. Snowberger of Durango, to serve as a school superintendent, appointed;
- Leroy James Williams of Parker, to serve as an individual with experience and interest in the education system, appointed;
- Honorable James Demont Wilson of Salida, to serve as a local elected official with experience and interest in the education system, appointed.

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the Colorado Historical Records Advisory Board and Petroleum Storage Tank Advisory Committee.

The Colorado Historical Records Advisory Board advises the Governor on all aspects of historical records housed within the State of Colorado and develops state guidelines for historical records projects in accordance with the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

For terms expiring Sept. 1, 2021:

- Martina Will de Chaparro of Denver, reappointed;
- Alyson Kay Jabrocki of Denver, to serve as a representative of the Colorado State Archives, and to serve as Chair, reappointed;
- Kathleen Mercedes Legg of Lyons, reappointed.

The Petroleum Storage Tank Advisory Committee establishes procedures, practices and policies governing the process for applying to the underground storage tank fund. The Fund reimburses eligible applicants for allowable costs in cleaning up petroleum contamination from petroleum storage tanks.

Effective Oct. 16, 2017 for a term expiring Oct. 16, 2020:

- Jeremy Templin of Louisville, to serve as a representative of companies that refine and retail motor fuels in Colorado, appointed.