



Legislative Newsletter



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

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

**“The world is a book, and those who don’t travel
only read one page”
-Augustine of Hippo**

The First Regular Session of the Seventy-second General Assembly convened on Jan. 4, 2019 and ended on May 3, 2019. There were 335 bills in the House and 263 bills in the Senate, totaling 558 bills introduced this legislative session. 460 of those passed the General Assembly. Most of those have been signed by the Governor, with all expected to go into law once the 30-day clock expires next week.

Expect monthly newsletters from Axiom during the interim.

-Team Axiom-

Gov. Polis signs 7 bills on renewable energy, but what does that mean for Colorado’s energy future?

Denver Post

The weather couldn’t have been better scripted Thursday as Gov. Jared Polis signed seven bills on renewable energy, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, curbing greenhouse-gas emissions — and unveiled a road map for making Colorado’s electric grid fossil-fuel-free by 2040.

Several legislators, local elected officials and representatives of utilities and conservation organizations turned out for the bill signing. It took place in an Arvada field amid green, rolling hills, with rows of solar panels and foothills in the background and under a sunny, bright-blue sky.

During his campaign for governor, Polis said he wants Colorado get all its electricity from renewable sources by 2040. He said the legislation signed into law Thursday, along with executive orders already issued and others planned, are building blocks to achieve that goal and to dramatically reduce climate-changing emissions.

“We are very excited about the opportunity for Colorado to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2040,” Polis said. “What does that mean for every Coloradan?”

It means, Polis answered, cleaner air; “green” jobs that can’t be outsourced; and lower electric rates, thanks to the decreasing costs of wind and solar power.

“And of course it’s about the health of our planet and about climate change, particularly in a state with climate-dependent industries like agriculture and the ski industry,” Polis said.

Some of the bills ignited heated debate during committee meetings and in the House and Senate. A ratepayers' group organized by the Independence Institute, a Denver libertarian think tank, and the Colorado AARP have raised concerns that encouraging utilities to shut coal plants earlier than planned and produce more renewable energy will drive up utility bills.

And the Colorado Automobile Dealers Association says that requiring manufacturers to sell a certain percentage of low-emission and electric vehicles in Colorado will reduce buyers' choices and increase prices.

Kelly Nordini, executive director of Conservation Colorado, sees the package of bills as "a nationally leading climate policy."

"Colorado should be leading on this," Nordini added. "We have wildfires, dirty air, less snow, a lot of concern about climate — and a lot of opportunity to leave a great legacy and show the country the way forward on this."

Legislation passed in the session that ended in early May is incorporated throughout the governor's new "Roadmap to 100% Renewable Energy by 2040 and Bold Climate Action." Among the many provisions of a bill reauthorizing the Colorado Public Utilities Commission is a requirement that utilities submit plans to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. The bill also directs the PUC to look at ways to encourage utilities to be more energy efficient and cut emissions.

"This is a bill that is reauthorizing and reforming and, frankly, modernizing our Public Utilities Commission," said Senate Majority Leader Steve Fenberg, D-Boulder, one of the bill's sponsors. "This is about making sure that as the energy system, as the utility systems change and evolve at such a rapid pace, that our regulators are keeping up with it."

Fenberg singled out a section of the legislation, Senate Bill 19-236, that says when utilities submit plans to the PUC, they must consider the social costs of carbon dioxide emissions, using guidelines developed by federal agencies. Those costs include negative impacts on health, property and food production.

One of the new laws sets statewide goals of reducing statewide greenhouse-gas emissions by at least 26 percent by 2025; 50 percent by 2030; and 90 percent by 2050. Levels from the 2005 are the baseline.

Other new laws strengthen energy and water efficiency standards and require local governments to adopt updated building codes on energy conservation. Efforts to increase the number of electric vehicles in Colorado are addressed in bills allowing public utilities to build charging stations and extending tax credits for electric vehicles.

Rules seen as limiting the expansion of community solar gardens were modified by House Bill 19-1003. The changes include increasing the maximum size of a solar garden to 5 megawatts from 2 megawatts. The cap would eventually grow to 10 megawatts.

A breakdown of the 8 issues Colorado lawmakers will study before the 2020 legislative session

Colorado Sun

Before lawmakers left the state Capitol earlier this month, they issued homework for the interim. And if the assignments are any indication, the next legislative term is expected to be another doozy.

The Democratic-led General Assembly is preparing to study eight major policy topics — ranging from school safety and college affordability to private prisons and tax breaks — and recommend about two dozen bills for the 2020 session.

The interim study committee work is expected to begin in June and continue for six months — a stretch designed to give lawmakers more time to tackle complex issues that went unresolved in the 2019 lawmaking term. The committees are approved by top lawmakers and assigned a maximum number of meetings and bills. Other requests to focus on issues such as affordable child care, wage theft laws, teacher evaluation didn't win approval.

In addition to the interim committees, lawmakers created five additional panels to look juvenile justice, health care costs, a transition from fossil fuels, youth issues and health insurance. Other bills tasked Gov. Jared Polis' administration with studies on major issues expected to emerge in legislation next year, including a paid sick leave program as well as a public option for health insurance.

All together, the efforts will help Democratic lawmakers move forward on their priorities.

"With a citizen legislature that only meets 120 days, there are obviously big, complex issues that are hard to dig into while we are in session," said House Majority Leader Alec Garnett. The interim allows for "a more comprehensive environment to dig in listen to experts from around the state and formulate solutions in a more collaborative way than normally happens in session."

Here's a breakdown of the issues lawmakers will study before they reconvene in January.

School safety

After the STEM School shooting May 7, House and Senate leaders from both parties agreed to form an interim committee.

The School Safety Committee is evenly split with four Democrats and four Republicans and it is tasked with reviewing existing state laws regarding safety, emergency response, threat prevention and identifying students in crisis to see where improvements can be made.

"Clearly we can do more to protect our children and our schools from these violent attacks," House GOP Leader Patrick Neville said in a statement.

But the debate ahead of the committee's first meeting reveals a significant divide.

At a public forum sponsored by The Colorado Sun earlier this month, leaders from the two parties offered disparate responses to the latest school shooting. Democrats are looking at access to firearms while Republicans want to boost school security measures.

The committee is expected to meet at least three times and it can consider as many as five bills for the next session.

Energy market and climate change

The topic of oil and gas regulation and climate change dominated the 2019 legislative session, but lawmakers believe more work is needed.

The Energy Legislation Review committee is expected to cover a broad range of issues, from the state's electric grid and electric vehicle market to climate change and energy storage. The transition to renewable energy from fossil fuels and the impact on the state's economy is another possible topic of discussion.

"This is a perennial issue. Yes, we got a lot of work done on energy issues in the '19 session, but the marketplace continues to evolve, technology continues to evolve and I think this is something the legislature takes on every single session," said Rep. Chris Hansen, a Denver Democrat who requested the committee and wants it made permanent.

State Rep. Sonya Jaquez Lewis, a Democrat from Boulder County, proposed a similar committee, shorthanded as the "Green New Deal," focused on jobs in renewable energy and the environment but it was rejected amid partisan concerns.

The energy committee will include six Democrats and four Republicans, who are expected to meet four times and propose as many as three bills.

Investor-owned utilities

Senate President Leroy Garcia wanted to do more when it came to the regulation of investor-owned utility companies in Colorado, so he used his clout to win approval for an interim committee.

The Pueblo Democrat is a frequent critic of Black Hills Energy, which serves his district and has some of the highest rates in the state. And the panel is expected to look at issues related to the company.

The Investor-owned Utilities committee is poised to look at energy assistance programs, the price of energy, consumer programs run by the companies and whether an audit is needed.

The committee will include four Democrats and two Republicans. It will meet twice and may consider as many as three bills.

School finance

First formed in 2017, the Legislative Interim Committee on School Finance is being extended one more year.

The reason: The formula used to dole out money to the state's school districts is so complicated that lawmakers have struggled to find answers with enough political support to win approval. And Amendment 73, an unsuccessful measure in 2018 to revamp school funding, stalled discussions for a time.

The first two years "built the foundation for the background on how we got to where we are now," said Garnett, who served on the panel. In addition to studying other states' models, he said, "this committee should be in a position to start discussing substantive changes to the formula."

The 10-member committee is evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. It will meet up to five times in the interim and may sponsor as many as five bills.

Polis signs trio of bills that business groups, GOP fought as being hurtful to Colorado

Denver Business Journal

Gov. Jared Polis on Monday signed a trio of bills that he said will improve the fortunes of working-class Coloradans — even as opponents have criticized the measures will make life harder for employers and possibly steer companies away from expanding in Colorado.

At a morning ceremony, the first-year Democratic governor signed into law House Bill 1025, the so-called "Ban the Box" legislation that bars employers from asking job-seekers on initial application forms whether they have a criminal history. Then, at a late-afternoon event at Pipefitters Local 208 union hall in north Denver, he put his signature to HB 1210, which allows local governments to raise their minimum wages above the state's level, and HB 1306, which requires the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment to collect and report more data on call-center jobs, including their wage levels and layoffs by call-center operators.

Bills to allow local minimum-wage hikes and to ban application criminal-history questions have failed multiple times in recent years when Republicans held the majority in the Colorado Senate — a majority they lost in the November election. As such, proponents brought them back with expectations they would become law this year, though both bills changed significantly during the legislative process.

HB 1025 sponsoring Democratic Reps. Jovan Melton of Aurora and Leslie Herod of Denver agreed to eliminate the creation of a private right of legal action for aggrieved job seekers from the bill, which still allows for employers to do background checks on applicants and to ask about criminal histories during interviews. They also delayed implementation of the law for two years for businesses that have fewer than 10 employees, compelling most business groups to drop their opposition as it made its way through the General Assembly.

HB 1210, sponsored by Melton and now-former Rep. Rochelle Galindoof Greeley, gives local governments the ability to raise wages above the state's minimum level, which is scheduled to go up to \$12 per hour on Jan. 1. That bill underwent

major changes in the Senate, which added provisions requiring traveling workers to be in a higher-wage city at least four hours in a week before receiving that level of compensation, limiting cities and counties from upping the wage by no more than the greater of \$1.75 an hour or 15% in one year, delaying any local wage hikes until the start of 2021 and limiting the number of local governments that can boost wages without prior approval from the state government.

Still, Polis framed it as a bill that does good by granting more authority to local governments that know their workers' needs best. And cosponsoring Sen. Jessie Danielson, D-Wheat Ridge, said that it will help people live where they work."

Lizeth Chacon, executive director of the Colorado People's Alliance that led the successful fight to pass a 2016 constitutional amendment that raised the statewide minimum wage from \$8.31 an hour, said her organization will begin sitting down soon with activists and local officials to figure out where the greatest areas of need are to seek a minimum-wage hike. Officials from Summit County to Denver — including Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, who stood behind Polis Monday as he signed the bill — asked the Legislature to pass HB 1210 over the objections of most business groups, which said it will pull workers away from lower-cost towns and will be an administrative nightmare for companies with multiple locations in multiple cities.

"Yes, we are ready to get to work," Chacon said after the signing ceremony. "I think the next step is to think about where does it make the most sense first."

HB 1306, sponsored by Galindo and Democratic Rep. Daneya Esgar of Pueblo, had a lower profile during the 2019 session than the other two bills but caused particular concerns in its original form, in which it required call centers to notify the state of plans to terminate jobs and mandated the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade to make public a list of businesses that moved such jobs outside the U.S. Republican representatives assailed this "list of shame as a potential penalty that would keep call-center operators from even considering a move to Colorado, and Rep. Perry Buck, R-Windsor, said it would damage Colorado's pro-business atmosphere.

Even as Esgar started each committee hearing reeling off a list of layoffs that had displaced more than 1,500 workers in the sector since 2012, she agreed to cut the bill down drastically to the point where it just requires the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment to include information on call-center jobs and employee wages as part of an annual report it gives to the Legislature. But even in that form, sponsoring Sen. Robert Rodriguez, D-Denver, said Monday that tracking jobs lost overseas is a "big first step" for the state, and the Communication Workers of America praised it for adding "new accountability and transparency to the off-shoring process."

Colorado becomes first state in nation to cap price of insulin

Denver Post

Diabetics in Colorado who use insulin to control their blood sugar levels won't pay more than \$100 per month for the drug starting in January thanks to a bill signed into law by Gov. Jared Polis on Wednesday.

"Today, we will declare that the days of insulin price gouging are over in Colorado," Polis said in his office as he signed the bill, according to CBS Denver.

Insulin has been around for nearly a century, but the price that patients with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes pay for the drug has doubled since 2012, according to the Healthcare Cost Institute. The cost of insulin can creep up toward \$1,000 for those whose health care coverage requires significant cost-sharing.

The sudden spike in insulin prices lead to congressional inquiries and public outrage, but Colorado is the first state to implement a cap on what its residents can be charged for the medication. The law doesn't limit what insulin manufacturers can charge insurance companies, and it's expected those insurers will pay the difference.

Rep. Dylan Roberts, D-Avon, told The Denver Post earlier this year that the projections he saw showed the price of health care plans increasing by "a couple of cents, per person, per month."

The new law also requires Attorney General Phil Weiser to investigate why drug manufacturers started rapidly raising the price of insulin in recent years, and it tasks the Department of Law with issuing a report of his findings by November 2020.

Polis to sign major environmental bills

Colorado Politics

Gov. Jared Polis can put a Democratic stamp on his legacy early in his tenure Thursday when he affixes his signature on a package of environmental bills, including Colorado's Climate Action Plan.

House Bill 1261 aims to reduce carbon emissions by at least 26% by 2025, at least 50% by 2030, and 90% by 2050, based on 2005 levels.

The new law, one of the centerpieces of Polis' run for governor last year, will empower the state Air Quality Control Commission to create rules to help the state meet the clean-air goals.

The bill is one of seven the governor is expected to sign at a small gathering in a solar garden in Arvada on Thursday morning.

The governor's office said Polis would use the ceremony to "outline further direction, policies and progress to date that will advance Colorado's climate action and 100% renewable energy by 2040."

A piece of companion legislation, Senate Bill 96, authorizes the state to collect long-term climate change data.

"Coloradans have been waiting for climate leadership, and the leaders that Coloradans sent to the Capitol delivered on their promises to take action," Jim Alexee, director of the Colorado Sierra Club, said in a statement Wednesday.

"The legislation passed in the 2019 legislative session sets Colorado on a path to reach Gov. Polis' goal of powering our state with 100% renewable energy."

The Sierra Club supported all the bills, but also noted that Senate Bill 236, which reauthorized the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

The rate-setting panel of appointees will be instructed to weigh the social costs of carbon and its cumulative effects as it sets rates, which should give renewables a big boost.

The bill also allows utilities to issue bonds to retire coal plants and offers help to coal plant workers and communities affected by such closures.

That could put pressure on Tri-State Generation and Transmission to accept a proposal from Guzman Energy, which has offered to finance the closure of three Tri-State coal plants and sell back energy that comes primarily from renewable sources.

Tri-State supplies energy to most of the rural cooperatives in Colorado.

Polis also is scheduled to sign:

- House Bill 1231, setting new appliance efficiency standards.
- House Bill 1260, on building energy codes.
- House Bill 1272, Housing Authority Property in Colorado New Energy Improvement District.
- House Bill 1003, the Community Solar Gardens Modernization Act.

"The Colorado Sierra Club supported legislation that moves us forward by supporting energy industry workers, meeting the demands of electricity customers, and cutting pollution so our kids and grandkids can enjoy Colorado for generations to come," Alexee stated.

Colorado's governor has signed laws for most of his health-care priorities in just 8 days.

Here's what they'll do.

Denver Business Journal

Gov. Jared Polis on Wednesday signed a bill that will limit the amount that many insured Colorado diabetics will pay for needed insulin, finishing off an eight-day period in which the first-year Democratic governor turned all of his major priorities involving health-care spending into law.

Since May 14th, Polis also has inked measures that end surprise out-of-network hospital bills for insured patients, allow groups of Coloradans in high-cost counties to band together to leverage better insurance prices and seek permission from the federal government to launch a reinsurance program, offer a publicly administered insurance option in high-cost counties and import certain prescription drugs from Canada. That all comes roughly one month after he signed a law that requires hospitals to turn over scores of new spending and billing records to the public so that legislators can determine a way to craft incentives for the more efficient administration of health care.

From the time the former congressman kicked off his gubernatorial campaign, he touted as a top priority ways to help Coloradans who are “getting ripped off” on the price of health care. And while the Legislature was not able to push through some measures dealing with escalating costs, including a bill that would have increased transparency around the cost of a wide range of pharmaceuticals, the past week has served moved many of Polis’ campaign proposals — and some longtime legislative plans that previously had failed to make it through both the House and the Senate — into reality that will affect the operations of hospitals, drug manufacturers and insurers — and likely give some relief to employers and individuals.

“Too many Coloradans have to make tough decisions when it comes to health care, but we’ve worked to provide them much-needed relief, especially those who live in rural communities with few options, little competition and high prices,” said Sen. Kerry Donovan, a Vail Democrat who sponsored three of the measures. “I am proud to see these innovative Colorado solutions that will give Coloradans options signed into law.”

After a Tuesday signing of the surprise-billing ban and a Thursday ceremony to push into law the Canadian-drug-importation proposal, Polis really revved up his work on Friday. At ceremonies in Silverthorne and Vail, he inked: House Bill 1168, which creates a reinsurance program to bring down skyrocketing individual-insurance premiums; Senate Bill 4, which allows consumers and businesses in high-cost mountain and Western Slope counties to form cooperatives to negotiate for lower insurance rates; and HB 1004, which compels the state to study several options for lowering health-care costs, including the potential creation of a public insurance plan for people who make too much to qualify for Medicaid.

Then on Tuesday, the governor signed HB 1216, which caps at \$100 a month the maximum share of the cost of insulin that insured Coloradans must pay. It also mandates the Colorado Attorney General’s office investigate the pricing of insulin and whether the state can take additional steps to bring those costs down.

The work is just beginning on several of the measures, which must receive a federal waiver to be implemented. That is true of the Canadian-drug-importation plan, which has never gotten such an OK from the federal government but will be going in front of President Donald Trump’s administration at the same time that a similar bill from Republican Florida will. It is true of launching a public insurance option — if the study committee looking into the proposal decides late this year to recommend it. And it’s true of the reinsurance program, which proposes to use a combination of hospital fees, money generated from caps on sales tax money returned to retailers and increasing revenue from insurance-premium fees to create a pool that insurers could dip into to cover their most expensive claims and, at the same time, bring about reductions of 5% to 20% on individual-market insurance premiums.

Still, the measures all are law as far as the state can implement them now, despite complaints from legislative Republicans that many of the solutions further distorted the health-care market rather than address the underlying

costs of care that are soaring, including increasing regulations on insurers, doctors and others from the federal and state government.

Healthier Colorado, an organization focused on finding consumer-centric solutions, called HB 1004 and SB 4 in particular “watershed” solutions that address the limited insurance options offered to many Coloradans, including 14 more rural counties where only one insurer offers individual plans. And the American Diabetes Association noted that HB 1216 is the first law in the nation limiting the amount that diabetics will have to pay for insulin, no matter how many vials are needed.

Rep. Julie McCluskie, the Dillon Democrat who sponsored HB 1168 with Republican Rep. Janice Rich of Grand Junction, said that if approved by the federal government, her bill — as well as several of the other measures that are now state statutes — will go a long way to helping people who are at their breaking point of being able to afford health care right now.

“We don’t have any more time to waste,” McCluskie said in a statement. “People are deciding between paying their mortgage and their health insurance right now.”

Conversion therapy for gay youth banned in Colorado

Denver Post

For years a group of Colorado lawmakers have tried and failed to pass two laws they say would improve the lives of LGBTQ Coloradans.

One bans mental health professionals from trying to change a minor’s sexual orientation or “sexual or romantic attraction or feelings toward individuals of the same-sex,” and it would make advertising conversion therapy a deceptive trade practice under the Colorado Consumer Protection Act. The second bill makes it possible for transgender Coloradans to update their birth certificates without having to prove they surgically changed their gender or submit a public notice.

On Friday morning, Gov. Jared Polis signed them both into law in front of a cheering crowd gathered on the west steps of the Capitol.

“This has truly been a testament of how progress takes time,” Rep. Daneya Esgar, D-Pueblo, told the crowd moments before Polis signed both bills.

What made the bills successful this legislative session was Democratic control of the Colorado Senate. Both failed to pass out of the state’s upper chamber in recent years, when Republicans held a one-seat majority.

Those who objected to the conversion therapy bill said they worried it would infringe on the ability of pastors and others to talk about their personal religious beliefs on homosexuality. And the concerns raised about issuing new birth certificates to transgender persons largely centered around whether birth certificates are historical documents that shouldn’t be altered.

Some Republicans supported both bills.

Rep. Colin Larson, R-Littleton, supported the bill banning conversion therapy. The 32-year-old told a committee back in February that his party’s divide on the bill was “a generational issue, to be frank with you.”

“This (bill) protects them until the age of 18, so they have the ability to grow up and explore who they are and not be forced to do anything until they are a legal, consenting adult,” Larson said at the time.

Four Republican state senators also voted for the transgender identity documents bill.

“It is absurd that we put barriers in front of transgender Coloradans when their only ask is for a government document that accurately reflects who they are ... ,” Sen. Dominick Moreno, D-Commerce City, said after the bill passed the Senate. “I am proud to see the progress our state is making.”

Gov. Polis signs bill ending century-old appointed public trustees

Denver Post

Gov. Jared Polis on Wednesday ended more than 100 years of patronage hiring tradition when he signed a bill stripping public trustee appointments from his office and moved the jobs to the respective county treasurers.

Three other efforts to end the appointments in the state’s 10 largest counties — 52 other counties already rely on its treasurers to do the public trustee job — have failed over the last seven years, largely from political partisanship and heavy lobbying by those who held the jobs. But a Democratic-controlled legislature, combined with a governor who saw the appointments as needless and not accountable to the residents they served, helped shuttle it through this year with barely a squabble.

In a Facebook broadcast, Polis called House Bill 19-1295 “a bill to proudly reduce my power in an area that doesn’t make sense for the governor to oversee. ... These positions should not be patronage positions for this governor or any other governor.”

Public trustees run the state’s foreclosure system, handling deeds of trust and the auctions that sell the houses impacted by them. The appointed trustees — from Weld, Pueblo, Jefferson, Larimer, Arapahoe, Adams, Douglas, El Paso, Boulder and Mesa counties — operate autonomously, answering only to the governor. There were no limits to how long they could hold the post or how frequently they could be re-appointed.

“This new law will help ensure more accountability for Coloradans. It’s about good government and will help save county taxpayer money,” House Speaker and bill co-sponsor KC Becker said in a statement. “I’m proud of the bipartisan work that went into getting it done.”

Elected treasurers handle the trustee job in 51 other Colorado counties, while Weld County’s treasurer is appointed by its board of commissioners. Denver’s public trustee job is held by its elected clerk and recorder, and Broomfield County commissioners appoint theirs.

Previous efforts to ditch the appointments were largely the result of a 2012 Denver Post investigation into the trustee offices that led to the forced resignation of 9 appointees and the retirement of another. Five were eventually rehired.

Unlike those previous legislative efforts, however, the current bill had Polis’s support from the outset and was chiefly sponsored by Becker, a Boulder Democrat, and came about a year after a financial crises in the Boulder Public Trustee’s office nearly gutted that office.

As a result, the measure met with little resistance, with only two votes cast in the House against it and unanimous agreement in the Senate.

With foreclosures in Colorado at their lowest level in at least 15 years, legislators questioned why the appointees — each of whom is paid \$72,500 a year — were needed anymore.

The transitions are to occur by July 2020. Along with the new title of public trustee, the treasurers in the 10 counties will each receive a \$12,500 stipend. The appointed trustees are not barred from applying for a job with the treasurer to handle the same work.

Outgoing Douglas County Public Trustee Christine Duffy, who is president of the Public Trustee Association of Colorado, and Yuma County Treasurer Dee Ann Stults, president of the Colorado County Treasurers’ Association, would not comment on the bill and its potential impact.

A Colorado plan to dramatically lower health insurance prices for some now awaits federal approval

Colorado Sun

Colorado's reinsurance program — which would lower health insurance premiums for some by using state and federal dollars to help insurance companies pay their most expensive claims — is starting to take shape, but it still faces a significant hurdle: winning approval from the federal government.

State regulators last week submitted an application for the feds' OK. The federal government has several months to review the application and make a decision, but state Insurance Commissioner Michael Conway is hoping for a faster timeline with final word coming by the end of summer. He's so confident of the fast turnaround that he has asked insurance companies to include estimated savings from the program in one set of proposed 2020 rates that they will submit to the state for review next month.

The reinsurance program would benefit those in the individual market — i.e. roughly 8% of people in Colorado who buy health insurance on their own instead of getting it through their employer. And Conway is finalizing details for precisely how the program will work.

But, based on the state's application and a set of emergency regulations Conway has proposed, we have a pretty good idea already of what it will look like. Here are five numbers to tell the tale.

\$2.1 billion

— The estimated amount the federal government would save in tax credits over a 10-year period if it approves the program, according to the state's application.

Reinsurance funding is sort of a chain reaction. First the state gets together a pool of money to give to insurance companies to cover really expensive claims. That allows insurance companies to lower their monthly premiums for everybody, at which point the second reaction kicks in. Because premiums are lower, the federal government doesn't have to spend as much on tax credits to help people pay for insurance. Colorado's application asks the federal government to put some of those projected savings back into the state's program — about \$163 million in 2020, according to an actuarial analysis included in Colorado's application.

\$87 million

— The portion the state has to fund for the reinsurance program in 2020.

The actuarial analysis estimates the program will cost about \$250 million in its first year, with the state's share being around \$87 million and money from the feds covering the rest. Colorado plans to cobble that money together from increased revenue from existing taxes on insurance companies; a change in how much businesses can hold onto for paying their sales taxes on time; and a roughly \$40 million-a-year fee assessed on hospitals.

That last source has given at least one hospital heartburn. In commenting on the program's draft regulations, an official from Montrose Memorial Hospital said the hospital is in too perilous of a financial situation to help insurance companies out.

"We are not the health care system that created the exorbitant costs that caused insurers to raise premiums to beneficiaries," a hospital senior director wrote. "If insurances need a funding mechanism ... it should not be on the backs of rural Colorado hospitals."

Colorado's share for the program could climb above \$100 million in 2020 if more claims than expected need to be covered, according to the analysis included in the application. But Conway said he is confident the firm that did the analysis — Dallas-based Lewis & Ellis — ran the numbers correctly, using guidance from the federal government, and the state won't be stuck with an unexpectedly high bill.

“The actuarial science is the actuarial science,” he said.

\$30,000

— The lower limit at which point the state starts helping insurance companies pay for claims.

The reinsurance program won't chip in to help insurance companies cover every claim. Instead, for the program to start paying out, a person's claims must climb above a certain threshold — called the “attachment point.” Colorado's draft regulations set the attachment point at \$30,000, meaning the state will help insurance companies pay for the care of someone whose medical bills top \$30,000 in a year.

As far as health care charges go, that's not a lot, but it's also not clear how many people's claims will be eligible for reinsurance, since the majority of people cost insurance companies very little in a given year. In a previous analysis, actuaries said about 15,000 people's claims would have qualified for reinsurance in 2017 with an attachment point set at \$20,000.

\$400,000

— The claims cap at which point the state stops helping insurance companies with claims.

Just as there is a floor in the reinsurance program, there is a ceiling. And the draft regulations set that ceiling at \$400,000 — meaning the state will no longer help insurance companies pay claims that total above \$400,000.

16%

— The average amount the reinsurance program is projected to reduce premiums statewide.

The analysis included in Colorado's application predicts that the state will be able to reduce premiums on the individual market by an average of 16 percent statewide — and almost double that in the mountains. (Because of the high cost of health insurance in the mountains and on the Western Slope, the program is structured so that the state chips in the most to help cover claims in those communities.)

These price drops are expected to boost the number of people with insurance in Colorado — by more than 6,000 people, according to the analysis in the application. And Conway said, of all the numbers about the program, this one is what he's heard about the most from the public.

“People are pretty excited about the premium relief,” he said.

Polis signs 4 key affordable-housing bills into law

Denver Business Journal

Gov. Jared Polis on Friday signed a quartet of bills into law that represent the most significant steps that Colorado legislators took this year to addressing the state's housing-affordability crisis.

The bills were among about a dozen bills that addressed housing in some form or fashion, ranging from a failed effort to allow local governments to impose rent-control measures to several measures that aim to help tenants by limiting housing-application fees or giving them more time to cure delinquent payments. House Speaker K.C. Becker, D-Boulder, had said they were part of a bigger-picture goal of easing the rising cost of living for working-class Coloradans.

But the four new laws that the first-year Democratic governor inked at ALTO, a mixed-use affordable-housing development in Westminster, are arguably the quartet that, if successful, will lead most directly to the creation of more below-market rental and owner-occupied housing of any efforts this year. Those four are:

- House Bill 1228, sponsored by Democratic Reps. Shannon Bird of Westminster and Brianna Titone of Arvada, which doubles the amount of tax credits over the next five years that can go to the construction of low-income housing;

- HB 1322, sponsored by Democratic Rep. Dylan Roberts of Eagle and Republican Rep. Perry Will of New Castle, which moves \$30 million a year for the next three years from the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund in the Treasurer's Office to a new housing-development grant fund;
- HB 1319, sponsored by Bird and Republican Rep. Hugh McKean of Loveland, which revises the administration of property-tax exemptions for low-income housing and requires state agencies to come up with thorough lists of vacant buildings and undeveloped land that could be put to this purpose; and,
- HB 1245, sponsored by Rep. Mike Weissman, D-Aurora, which caps the monthly vendor fee that the state allows retailers to keep for collecting and remitting sales taxes and raises as much as \$49 million a year going forward. While the bill originally directed that money to be used for affordable housing, a late-session change to the state's reinsurance program — which Polis is also expected to sign into law today — takes the vast majority of the new revenues and puts it that way instead.

Taken cumulatively, the bills are likely to offer incentives to developers to build more affordable housing and also allow the state to supplement the money going to the rental and purchase of such housing. And while Democrats pushed each of the measures — sometimes in opposition of Republicans who argued they are distorting the housing market — the big-picture idea of creating more workforce housing is one that is growing increasingly important to employers who are scrambling to find employees that can live near their jobs.

“We need to help people access affordable housing and grow the middle class, and this ... is a proven and effective method to help,” said Bird, speaking specifically of HB 1228. “There is such a high demand for these grants across the state, so there is absolutely a need to expand this tax credit to accommodate the high demand.”

Polis still has decisions to make on some of the landlord-tenant bills, which were fraught with more controversy during the sessions. Landlords have said that if the regulations around their properties grow too stringent or their ability to make profits grows too tough, they could sell their for-rental single-family homes in particular for market rate, which would lessen the supply of below-market-price housing.

Kindergarten, reading, mental health: what Colorado lawmakers did for education in 2019

Chalkbeat Colorado

Colorado lawmakers agreed to pay for full-day kindergarten, put \$100 million toward reducing the state's outstanding obligations to school districts, approved a slew of grants to address students' mental health needs, and stepped up efforts to improve student reading.

With a new governor pushing an aggressive education agenda and Democratic control of both chambers, Colorado schools and students scored some big wins during the 2019 legislative session.

At the same time, the session was also notable for what didn't happen.

With a blue wave sweeping progressive legislators into office, many observers wondered if the bipartisan education policy forged over a decade in Colorado might erode. But lawmakers did not make major changes to teacher evaluations or school accountability, did not take back money promised to charter schools, and did not make it harder for districts to outsource certain services.

The institutional structures and political assumptions that govern education in Colorado remain largely unchanged.

Some of the session's most contested bills also touched on the classroom: a comprehensive sex education measure and tougher requirements for vaccine exemptions. The first one, even with amendments to appease critics, was one of the last bills debated Friday evening. The second died without a Senate vote in the face of vocal opposition and the likely prospect of a veto.

Here's a look at what Colorado lawmakers did on education this year.

Full-day kindergarten

Gov. Jared Polis campaigned on making full-day kindergarten free for families and pushed it from his opening-day speech all the way through the legislative process, with the enthusiastic support of state Rep. Jim Wilson, a Salida Republican and former superintendent.

Starting this fall, the state will pay the same rate for kindergarten students as for older ones, and school districts will no longer be allowed to charge parents tuition. The move frees up millions of school dollars that can go toward other needs, and puts hundreds of dollars a month back in the pockets of many families.

Early childhood

Polis also campaigned on expanding access to preschool for 4-year-olds. The kindergarten bill frees up 5,000 spots in the Colorado Preschool Program.

But lawmakers said they didn't have the money for 3,000 more spots that Polis requested.

On the second-to-last day of the session, the Colorado Senate emphatically rejected a proposal to raise nicotine taxes, with proceeds to double the state's preschool investment, among other uses.

Lawmakers approved income tax credits for preschool teachers, to give a slight boost to their notoriously low salaries, and tax credits to help low-income families pay for child care. As in many states, tax policy has become a common way to address early childhood education priorities.

And a bipartisan bill to let local voters create taxing districts to fund early childhood care faces a lawsuit from a taxpayer group.

School finance

Higher local property values will help the state pay the \$175 million price tag on full-day kindergarten and supports more generous school spending.

The \$7.4 billion education bill sets average per pupil funding at \$8,476, up about 4.3 percent from the current year. The measure also includes \$100 million to pay down money owed to districts after recession-era budget cuts, a \$20 million special allocation for rural districts, and \$22 million for special education students with more significant disabilities, along with saving \$40 million for a rainy day.

The bill also contains grants to support physical education and to reduce the dropout rate by supporting at-risk ninth-graders.

Lawmakers also put more marijuana money toward school construction grants and set aside \$25 million to cover transitions costs associated with full-day kindergarten.

Nonetheless, lawmakers are still holding back more than \$500 million compared to what the state constitution requires them to spend, a move known as the budget stabilization factor.

This fall, voters will be asked to let Colorado keep all the revenue generated by existing taxes, with any extra money to be shared between K-12, higher education, and transportation.

Lawmakers did not take up a major tax reform that has the potential to free up hundreds of millions for schools, but a special committee working on long-term school finance issues received permission to meet for one more year. This question could come back next year.

Colorado cities can raise minimum wages starting in January 2020

Denver Post

County commissioners and city council members across Colorado are starting to ask themselves the same question: Should we consider raising our minimum wage?

“It’s a new power,” Summit County Commissioner Thomas Davidson said. “It’s not something that we’ve had to think about before.”

State law blocked local governments from enacting their own minimum-wage laws for decades, but that changed Tuesday when Gov. Jared Polis signed House Bill 1210. The new law gives cities and counties permission to set their own minimum wages starting in 2020. The new wages wouldn’t take effect until January 2021.

That gives Davidson and the two other Summit County commissioners almost a year and a half to decide whether it’s something they want to do. Davidson said that, ideally, he wants to work with the cities in his county such as Breckenridge and Silverthorne to see if they can all reach an agreement about whether to raise the minimum wage and, if so, by how much. And he wants to bring local businesses of all sizes into the conversation.

“Many businesses here have to start well above \$12 an hour in order to get people willing to work for them,” Davidson said.

At \$11.10 per hour, Colorado already has one of the highest minimum wages in the country, but those who lobbied for local control are quick to point out a full-time employee making that in Denver, Aspen or Boulder qualifies for a range of government assistance programs, especially if that person is a single parent.

A single parent who lives in Denver with two small children needs to earn almost three times the current minimum wage to be considered “self-sufficient” or able to provide certain basic necessities without public or private assistance, according to a 2018 study by the left-leaning Colorado Center on Law and Policy. That number drops to \$23 an hour for a single parent of two children who lives in Huerfano County, and a single person could theoretically be self-sufficient on less than Colorado’s current minimum wage.

“I think the next move is to make the bill mean something,” said Robel Worku, a community organizer who worked on both the campaign to raise the state minimum wage in 2016 and this bill.

Worku, who works for Colorado People’s Alliance, went on to say that means deciding which cities and counties to lobby first.

Denver and Boulder are obvious choices.

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock raised the minimum wage for city employees and contractors to \$15 an hour this year and signaled a willingness to do the same for the private sector. He testified on behalf of the bill and attended Tuesday’s bill signing. Boulder also has increased what it pays its employees, and Mayor Suzanne Jones said removing the state pre-emption was one of the city’s legislative goals for 2019.

“We’re focused on ensuring a sustainable wage for more of our contractors,” Jones said. “I imagine that the next council (who will be seated after November) will want to have a deeper discussion around minimum wage across the board.”

Polis signs into law bills on marijuana delivery, social use and investment that will change the pot industry

Colorado Sun

Laws signed by Colorado’s governor could bring big changes to the state’s marijuana industry, including the creation of businesses where people can consume cannabis and companies that deliver marijuana products.

The changes don’t take effect immediately. Voters in a city or county must first approve of allowing both new varieties of marijuana businesses.

State regulators cannot begin issuing “hospitality” licenses to marijuana retailers or other businesses seeking to allow use on their property until 2020. Delivery businesses cannot receive a state permit before 2020 for medical marijuana and 2021 for other marijuana products.

The laws were among several marijuana-related measures that Gov. Jared Polis, who is supportive of the state’s cannabis industry, signed Wednesday.

Polis also signed a measure allowing publicly traded companies to own marijuana businesses and limiting background-check requirements on investors.

All together, the slate of legislation represents a new dawn for marijuana in Colorado under a state leader more open to cannabis. Broadly, they represent an expansion of people’s ability to purchase pot and consume it, all while allowing more investment in the industry.

Polis said the new laws will help keep Colorado at the national forefront on legal marijuana. “We can’t rest on our laurels,” he said.

Last year, former Gov. John Hickenlooper vetoed similar legislation on marijuana “tasting rooms,” where people can consume pot at stores that sell it, as well as a bill that would have opened the industry up to public investment.

Polis has also signed into law this year a measure that allows doctors to recommend medical marijuana to patients who would otherwise be prescribed opioids and another authorizing people diagnosed with autism to obtain medical marijuana.

Here's what Colorado's new sales-tax simplification law means for retailers

Denver Business Journal

Gov. Jared Polis on Thursday signed a bill that will bring regulatory relief to every Colorado small business that ships goods directly to customers, penning a rare signing statement with the new law asserting that it will be an “important protection for small, local retailers” at a time when worldwide internet sales are changing the playing field for Main Street businesses.

House Bill 1240, sponsored by Democratic Rep. Tracy Kraft-Tharp of Arvada and Republican Rep. Kevin Van Winkle of Highlands Ranch, delays the implementation of the destination-sourcing sales-tax rule announced in September by the Colorado Department of Revenue until the state has developed a system that makes it easy for local retailers to determine the tax rate for each address in the state and then remit those taxes to the state. In doing so, it creates a solution for small businesses that had said the new rules would be fiscally unreasonable for them to abide by, forcing some homegrown companies to have to contemplate whether to avoid remitting taxes to the state government altogether.

Following a U.S. Supreme Court decision last summer allowing states to collect taxes from companies with no physical presence in them, the revenue department laid out rules requiring all out-of-state internet retailers that sell at least \$100,000 worth of products in Colorado to remit taxes to the state and to local governments within whose boundaries their customers lived. It also required this destination-sourcing model of tax remittance of all in-state businesses no matter how much revenue they generated — a particularly daunting mandate on small companies, set to begin on May 31, because the overlap of city, county and special-district jurisdiction creates some 680 unique taxing districts in Colorado and computer programs that parse out tax rates by addresses are considered prohibitively expensive.

HB 1240 stays codifies the new mandates on out-of-state companies, and it also requires that marketplace facilitators such as Amazon (Nasdaq: AMZN) that offer platforms for smaller businesses to sell their goods online collect and remit those taxes on behalf of those retailers. But its key provision puts off enforcement of the destination-sourcing rule for any in-state business that ships less than \$100,000 worth of goods until a new system that another bill signed this year

by Polis mandates the state to create is in place sometime late next year, allowing for one-stop determination of tax rates by addresses and a single place of remittance for those retailers.

The bill passed through both chamber of the Legislature without a single dissenting vote, a rare bipartisan victory in a very contentious session. And, appropriately, it also received no resistance from the first-year Democratic governor, who signed it at a small ceremony in his office.

“This new law, in combination with other laws passed this year, will hopefully help businesses in their partnership with the state in an increased streamlined tax-remittal process,” Kraft-Tharp told the Denver Business Journal after the signing.

Polis took the rare step of issuing a two-page letter outlining why he thinks this piece of legislation, which some business groups have called the best bill to come out of the 2019 session, is so important. Not only does it allow point-of-origin sourcing — paying based on where the businesses, rather than its customers, are located — until the state lives up to its obligations in creating the new system, but it removes an obstacle going forward for brick-and-mortar stores that have been at a disadvantage of some 8 to 10% on pricing in past years when giant national online companies did not have to charge sales tax on the same products that the local companies did.

“The retail economy is changing. More people are ordering goods over the internet to be delivered at their door,” Polis, a successful entrepreneur before entering politics, said in his signing statement. “As this shift occurs, we need to ensure there is a level playing field for brick-and-mortar retailers, and that our system for collecting sales tax works for small and large retailers alike.”

Colorado expands protections for mobile home residents

9News Denver

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) - Colorado has a new law on the books that legislators say expands protections for mobile home residents and leads to better enforcement of those regulations.

The Daily Camera reports Democratic Gov. Jared Polis signed the bill into law Thursday that set up a resolution process for disputes between mobile home residents and park owners.

The law allows the state Division of Housing to accept complaints and begin the mediation process.

The law also gives residents 30 days to leave properties when evicted, instead of the previous 48 hours.

Democratic state Rep. Edie Hooton says the state will likely see a spike in complaints during the law's first year, but lawmakers expect the volume to subside as "park owners start to see that the rules are being enforced."

Governor Signs Bill To Include E-Cigs In Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act (VIDEO)

CBS 4 Denver

DENVER (CBS4) – Gov. Jared Polis signed a bill into law which targets the use of vaping products indoors. E-cigarettes heat a nicotine solution into a vapor that’s inhaled.

The bill amends the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act to include electronic smoking devices. The bill also bans vaping within 25 feet of public buildings and workplaces.

In February, before the end of this year’s state legislative session, lawmakers approved amendments to exclude shops that allow smoking under local ordinances.

Supporters hope it curbs the problem of teen vaping.

New Colorado law increases penalties for drivers who hit bicyclists, pedestrians and construction workers

Denver Post

When a painter hit Douglas Howey with his work truck in 2012, the accident left the former Metro State physics professor paralyzed from the waist down.

The driver, whom Howey said hit him as he walked down a sidewalk near his home, paid a \$171 fine and had one point added to his driver's license.

"There was no justice, but today that is changed," Howey said.

What changed Wednesday is that Colorado Gov. Jared Polis signed a bill into law that increases the penalties for hitting a "vulnerable road user" such as a bicyclist, construction worker, officer or someone like Howey who was just taking a walk around his neighborhood.

Senate Bill 175 makes careless driving in which a vulnerable road user gets seriously injured a class 1 traffic misdemeanor. It gives judges the authority to order restitution and suspend a driver's license for up to one year as well as require the motorist to attend driver improvement courses or perform public service. It passed the Colorado House and Senate with overwhelmingly bipartisan support. Only two senators and five representatives voted against it.

Rep. Dylan Roberts, D-Avon, who sponsored the bill, said he routinely sees repeat careless drivers come through the 5th Judicial District, where he works as a deputy district attorney. It frustrates him, but he has to follow existing law.

The repeat-offender narrative hit home for bill supporter Adelaide Perr of Boulder, who was injured in an October 2014 bike accident.

"The driver who hit me had 17 prior traffic infractions," Perr told The Denver Post on Wednesday. "He had caused four prior crashes and after he got convicted he had four points on his license, and he continued to drive."

Perr, on the other hand, spent six months recovering and lives with a scar that stretches from her lips, across her cheek and around her neck. She also had to buy a car for the first time in years.

"There are days where my PTSD is too severe to ride, and so for the rest of my life I will probably own a car as a result," Perr said. "So, while he got to keep his primary mode of transportation, I forever lost mine and that was a very hard pill to swallow."

What comes next for businesses as 'equal pay for equal work' becomes Colorado law

Denver Business Journal

It is now illegal in Colorado to pay men and women differently for doing the same job — an idea that has garnered support from business organizations and women's advocacy groups alike.

Now the question will be: Will Senate Bill 85, signed at a Wednesday ceremony by Gov. Jared Polis, bring a stream of pay increases from employers who may have been compensating men and women differently — whether purposefully or inadvertently — or will it bring a torrent of lawsuits against companies by attorneys looking to capitalize on the new law?

To reach the goal of closing the pay gap between men and women in the Centennial State — a gap the Democratic governor told a crowd at the Women's Foundation of Colorado headquarters sits at 80 cents earned by women for every \$1 taken in by a man in a comparable job — SB 85 mandates several things of employers when it goes into effect at the beginning of 2021. It bars companies from asking about the pay history of job applicants (aiming to rectify the traditionally lower salaries of female workers), requires employers to post openings for every job to workers throughout the company and mandates that those companies must include salary ranges for those jobs in their descriptions.

But while those steps are expected to lead to some pay bumps for female workers, the biggest unknown from SB 85, sponsored by Democratic Sens. Jessie Danielson of Wheat Ridge and Brittany Pettersen of Lakewood, will come from its provision giving aggrieved workers a private right of action to sue employers who have been disproportionately compensating another employee of equal status. Sponsoring Democratic Reps. Janet Buckner and Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez of Denver added a provision to the bill late this session that allows the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment to create a grievance process that workers can go through before turning to the courts, but the bill specifically states that nothing in the new law prevents them from going directly to legal system to address their concerns.

It is this single provision of the bill that brought the most complaints from business leaders and led to the National Federation of Independent Business to ask Polis to veto the bill. Steve King, a policy adviser to the first-year Democratic governor, said before the signing ceremony Wednesday that while Polis hopes that workers use the state process that CDLE will create over the next year-and-a-half, they did not intend to shut down the path to the legal system, which allows workers to file suit as long as two years after learning about the pay disparity and recover three years of back wages.

“We strongly encourage people to use the existing remedies before going through a private right of action,” King said.

But Tony Gagliardi, Colorado NFIB director, said that he and other business groups had sought a compromise in which the private right of action was taken out of the bill or made dependent on completion of the administrative process, like was done in a compromise on the “Ban the box” bill barring employers from asking about criminal histories on initial application forms. Without that change, the bill holds the potential for small employers to be targeted with or without merit — a situation that could lead them to close businesses even if innocent because of the cost of legal defense.

“Most cases do not go to court. By a 9-to-1 margin, they are settled before trial,” Gagliardi said in a statement.

“However, many small-business owners are disappointed. About half feel that they are pushed into settlement by their insurer when they would prefer to fight.”

The likelihood of lawsuits did not come up during remarks at the ceremony Wednesday.

Polis noted that the first attempted bill on the subject of equal-pay was introduced — and killed in 1980. Danielson, while holding her squirming 2-year-old daughter, noted that if nothing was done to speed up the current pay of closing the pay gap, Isabelle would be 41 by the time the gap disappeared.

Business leaders, even as they fought the bill, said that they backed the goal of equal pay for the sexes, but they worried that the way the bill was written could lead to legal problems even for companies trying to meet that standard. During the bill’s journey through the Legislature, sponsors added amendments increasing the number of reasons one employee could be paid more than another in a comparable job — tacking on circumstances such as geographical location to conditions such as education and experience — and gave some legal safe harbor to companies that conduct audits to see if they are paying men and women the same.

One school social worker quelled a girl’s suicidal thoughts. Colorado hopes a lot more of them can provide a lasting solution.

Colorado Sun

OAK CREEK — Colorado lawmakers in the last legislative session committed more state money to behavioral health staffing in schools, hoping to help more students like a 15-year-old Routt County girl who credits the social worker at her school with saving her life.

The teen says she is a survivor of sexual assault that so devastated her psyche that one night she took her father's handgun from his bedroom and planned to kill herself. A random text message from her sister kept her from pulling the trigger.

But she says it was Megan Wykhuis, the social worker Soroco High School hired in 2017 with a behavioral health grant from the state, who taught her the power of poetry could give her a reason to go on living and defeat her thoughts of suicide.

"She taught me how to help make sense of it all and how to have coping mechanisms," says the student, whose name is not being used because she is a juvenile crime victim. When Wykhuis had her write a poem after her suicide attempt, she began to understand why she had grown so depressed and isolated and had stopped talking to others.

And she reached out for help.

Recently, she talked excitedly with a visitor to her school about how she hoped one day to have a career in social work so she could help others who had been sexually assaulted learn they can reclaim their power and not cede it to those who attacked them.

Extra money welcome, though too little and long overdue

Lawmakers this legislative session earmarked about \$3 million more annually for grants to Colorado schools for behavioral health care like Wykhuis provides. Supporters hope the extra money will reverse a trend that has left students in Colorado with fewer services than students elsewhere in the nation.

The Colorado Department of Education handed out \$9.4 million in state behavioral health grants in 2017 and \$11.9 million in 2018 for new school social workers, counselors, psychologists and nurses. But 24 applications went unfunded in the last grant cycle. Senate Bill 10 ensures there will be \$14.9 million in state grants, financed by marijuana sales tax revenue, for the next school year.

Though backers say the extra money is long overdue, the sum still won't cover all the requests. And that's worrisome, they say, given surging teen suicide rates and incidents of violence like this month's shooting at STEM School Highlands Ranch. In 2016, there were 77 suicides of Colorado youth ages 10 to 19. A year later, that number increased to 98. Suicide is the leading cause of death among Colorado teenagers.

Efforts also are underway to raise additional money from nonprofits and businesses for a pilot project to find out what will happen at schools that suddenly become among the best staffed in the nation for social workers, psychologists or counselors.

The pilot project was created by House Bill 1017 that Gov. Jared Polis signed into law this month. It calls for \$2.5 million in marijuana tax revenue to be used to attract up to \$15 million in private donations.

The combined money would be used to finance the hiring of up to 60 new social workers, psychologists or counselors to bolster staffing for at least 10 elementary schools or K-8 schools over the next three to five years. Grants distributed through the pilot project would ensure each participating school has at least one mental health specialist for every 250 students — a staffing level that exceeds what many schools in the state currently have.

Colorado lawmakers made big investments in public education — but few major policy changes

Chalkbeat Colorado

As Colorado's 2019 legislative session came to a close, Gov. Jared Polis strode into a conference room packed with reporters to talk about his accomplishments, starting with education.

“Have you heard us talk about full-day kindergarten ever?” the Democrat began, turning yet again to the issue he’s championed from the launch of his campaign to his opening speech, through four months of legislative deliberations and in dozens of public appearances. “So, it’s this novel idea we had where kids ought to be able to go a full day instead of just a half day, without their parents having to pay.”

Free full-day kindergarten got the most attention this year and will affect the most students, but it was just one piece of a far-reaching education agenda that included expanding access to mental health care in schools, funding dropout prevention programs, and improving access to higher education for students of color and those from low-income families.

“I cannot think of another session where we had such an ambitious agenda, and we got so much of it done,” said Leslie Colwell, vice president for K-12 initiatives for the Colorado Children’s Campaign. “It was a good year for kids.”

Many longtime Capitol observers described a new energy around education that they attribute to Polis’ passion for the issue, background as a charter school founder, and legislative experience. He approached his first session with a strong-armed determination to fulfill his campaign promises.

Democratic control of both chambers, meanwhile, opened up new opportunities to make progress on long-stalled priorities and to revisit old fights over charter schools, choice, and test-based accountability that have sometimes divided Democrats. Lawmakers mostly stuck to the former. A largely bipartisan consensus on education policy developed over the last decade remains intact.

The Colorado Education Association, the state’s largest teachers union, made changing Colorado’s controversial educator evaluation law one of its policy priorities. A bill to do so didn’t make it out of a committee.

“It’s been a lightning-rod issue since S.B. 191 came into being,” said union president Amie Baca-Oehlert, referring to the 2010 law by its bill number. “It’s a big conversation, and I think some people just weren’t ready for it. Educators who had been living with it without any changes were ready, but others weren’t.”

Another unsuccessful union initiative, sponsored by state Rep. Rochelle Galindo, a CEA member and school custodian by profession, would have made it harder for school districts to outsource janitorial, transportation, and other services to private companies.

Democrats on the House Education Committee voted down that proposal, along with another backed by school boards to stop giving additional money to state-authorized charter schools in accordance with a 2017 funding compromise.

“The biggest thing is that the fundamental principles of student-centered education policies remains intact,” said Luke Ragland, president of the conservative education advocacy group Ready Colorado. “Colorado has a really long history of these reforms being bipartisan. With this massive blue wave, I was definitely watching to see if that would change.”

Colwell said lawmakers did not seem interested in doing anything “drastic.”

“There’s a desire to look at policies that have been on the books and make improvements, but not to roll them back,” she said.

Polis starts setting up battlefield for Colorado's November ballot with 2 major bills

Denver Business Journal

Over the course of two signing ceremonies Wednesday, Gov. Jared Polis took two major steps to deciding what Colorado voters would be voting on — as well as what they won’t be considering — on the statewide ballot in November.

At a noon ceremony in his office, the first-year Democratic governor inked Senate Bill 263, sponsored by Democratic Sen. Rachel Zenzinger of Arvada and Republican Sen. Bob Rankin of Carbondale, which delays until 2020 a ballot initiative originally scheduled for this fall that seeks voter approval for a \$2.3 billion bond sale for transportation improvements. In addition to assuring that a \$500 million tranche of bond-like certificates of participation OK'd in a 2017 law will be sold on time in July, the bill gives highway- and transit-funding advocates one more year to try to convince voters to get behind a significant transportation package — something they rejected twice on the 2018 ballot.

Then, at a late-afternoon ceremony in Denver's Grant Frontier Park, Polis made law House Bill 1327, sponsored by Democratic House Majority Leader Alec Garnett of Denver and Republican House Minority Leader Patrick Neville, which legalizes sports betting in Colorado if voters approve a November ballot initiative to do so. Casinos that could offer the service in their facilities or online would be taxed on 10 percent of their proceeds, and the money would be raised — an estimated \$10 million to \$11 million per year — would go largely to a new fund that would tackle water storage, supply and conservation projects.

Polis has one more potential November ballot measure to weigh in on, and he is expected by Monday to sign HB 1257, which would ask voters to let the state keep any revenues above the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights cap permanently and divide the money equally between transportation, K-12 and higher education. But once that is official, the battlefield for November will be laid out.

Garnett in particular celebrated the opportunity to ask state residents if they are willing to join the slowly building parade of states that are looking to move sports-event gambling from the black market to a regulated and revenue-producing activity following a 2018 U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down a federal law that had limited the practice to the state of Nevada.

"Coloradans should have the option of betting on the Nuggets or the Broncos," Garnett said in a statement after the bill became law, establishing the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund and setting up the November vote on what will be Proposition DD. "The new funding will go toward protecting our precious water, and we believe this is something everyone can support."

The measure received significant bipartisan support in the Legislature. However, a number of both Republicans and Democrats were concerned about its potential effects on gambling addicts, and operators of off-track betting parlors said they should have been allowed in on the sports-betting action rather than the state giving a monopoly to already licensed casinos.

SB 263 also received significant bipartisan backing after its sponsors convinced members of their parties that the bond measure was likely to fail if it appeared opposite the revenue-retention measure on the ballot, leaving Colorado's congested roads once again without anything resembling a long-term solution. Many political analysts said the same thing happened in November, when a business-supported sales-tax increase for transportation and a Independence Institute-backed \$3.5 billion bond measure for highways both failed badly.

"I think we learned a lesson from the election last November about the problems that can occur when you have competing ballot measures," Zenzinger told the Denver Business Journal on Thursday, noting that postponing the election a year means that the \$500 million tranche can be sold immediately rather than having to be delayed to see whether the ballot measure passed, since that money would have to be redirected to bonds if voters OK'd it.

\$120 million in requests and \$40 million in the bank. How an obscure theory helped prioritize the Colorado budget.

Colorado Sun

Midway through the Colorado legislature's 2019 session, the appropriations committees in each chamber became the legislative version of purgatory.

Dozens of bills went in. Few came out. By the start of April, the backlog totaled more than 100 bills carrying a cumulative price tag of more than \$120 million. And the supporters for each bill were fighting for a piece of the same \$40 million that budget writers set aside.

This year, the limited pot of money forced unenviable decisions for the Democratic majority with the power to set spending priorities — like whether addressing the opioid crisis is more important than reducing the cost of health care, or choosing between making college or housing more affordable.

“We have this problem that we are always trying to solve every year,” said Rep. Chris Hansen, the Denver Democrat in charge of the House Appropriations Committee. “...What should we prioritize for funding?”

To find an answer, Democrats attempted a novel approach to public policy: quadratic voting. The obscure economic theory is designed to do what seems impossible at the state Capitol — limit the influence of politics and self-interest.

The experiment made the Colorado House one of the nation’s first test cases for the theory in the political realm. But the question is: Did it work?

How lawmakers typically prioritize spending

The question of how public dollars get spent is perhaps the most contentious issue lawmakers face each year at the state Capitol, even when one party controls the entire government as Democrats do now.

The vast majority of the roughly \$30.5 billion state spending plan is decided by the Joint Budget Committee. But each year the committee sets aside money for lawmakers to spend on programs outlined in separate bills. For the past two years, that figure has been about \$40 million — a fraction of a percent of total state spending, but a pot of money that’s hotly contested.

Typically, the decisions about where the money goes fall to party leaders in the chambers, but that can frustrate rank-and-file members who feel like their voices aren’t being heard. Another method allows lawmakers in the majority party to pick what to fund, but then members select their own bills and form alliances, making it hard to determine which are truly important.

The process was frustrating and opaque, even to Hansen, who saw it firsthand as an appropriations committee member in 2017. “It was just kind of this back and forth between leadership and key caucus members, and everyone was kind of pushing their thing, and we’re lobbying each other, and whatever emerged from that sausage factory got funded,” Hansen said.

In 2018, Hansen tried to make the process more transparent and more democratic. Each House Democrat received 15 votes to cast for the 15 bills they felt deserved funding. But he said the process generated “this big blob” of bills with roughly the same number of votes and no clear preferences.

This year, the stakes were higher, and Hansen knew he needed to find a better system.

In the prior four years, House Democrats had to barter with Republicans who controlled the Senate when it came to spending. And even that process would tend to concentrate power in the hands of a few moderate swing votes, as well as those chamber leaders who led the negotiations.

This year, with Democrats in full control of both chambers, the party had the opportunity to fund essentially any of their priorities. So how to decide?

Enter, a quadratic voting experiment

The idea to use quadratic voting came from Hansen’s former graduate school friend, who put him in touch with a mutual friend — Glen Weyl, a Microsoft researcher with a doctorate in economics from Princeton University.

Weyl is possibly the nation's foremost quadratic voting evangelist, if there is such a thing. He cowrote a book on the subject, *Radical Markets*, that's become a sensation, of sorts, in economic policy academia. The Economist magazine named it one of its books of the year in 2018, and it garnered glowing reviews from thought leaders across the ideological spectrum.

In the months since his book was published, Weyl partnered with others to launch the RadicalxChange Foundation, which looks to test his market-based theories through a growing online community and apply them to real world policy problems.

"The claim here is not that quadratic voting is some sort of magical voting system, but it's an incremental improvement over one-person, one-vote systems," said Matt Prewitt, the president of RadicalxChange. "If you can make that sort of meaningful improvement on a system such as voting, you can really do some important things."

Colorado's Tax Policies Are Complex And Controversial. This Group Wants To Start A Conversation About That

Colorado Public Radio

For months, small groups around Colorado have tackled one of the thorniest questions facing state government: what to do about its convoluted funding model.

A nonpartisan, nonprofit group backed by the state's biggest foundations has been hosting dozens of conversations on the topic. It's part of what it says is an effort to start a dialogue about a policy that some say prevents adequate funding for basic government services.

Building a Better Colorado was founded in 2015 with the aim of finding common ground in Colorado's shifting politics. The group has a track record of generating policy ideas that get bipartisan support: Three such concepts identified during the last round of meetings in 2015 made it onto the ballot — and passed.

So it's notable that the group has shifted its focus to state revenues, an issue of rising tension. Voters will decide in November on a ballot measure referred by Democratic lawmakers last session that would tweak the current system to allow the state to pour more resources into education and transportation.

At each meeting, attendees hear short presentations about the three most consequential amendments to the state constitution:

- Amendment 23, which mandates the state spend more on K-12 education every year but doesn't actually raise revenue for it.
- The Gallagher Amendment, which keeps residential property taxes low.
- The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, or TABOR. This requires every tax increase be approved by a vote of the people, and limits how much revenue the state and some local governments can keep.

"We have overlaid these policies in our constitution with each other. And so they interact in ways that we never, never intended," Reeves Brown, project manager for Building a Better Colorado, said at a meeting in Greeley earlier this month.

The prime example of that, Brown said, is how Gallagher lowers property tax assessment rates, and TABOR prevents them from floating back up. The upshot is a decrease in revenue for local governments and school districts. (While some voters may not have anticipated that consequence, TABOR's architect, Douglas Bruce, told CPR News in 2017 that wrote his measure specifically to have that effect.) Still, Brown said the message he's sending to participants is not that they need to change any policies.

“Our message to people is be aware of how they are affecting your quality of life, because they are affecting your quality of life,” he said.

A State, Divided

The goal of Building a Better Colorado is to bridge political and geographic divides, founder Dan Ritchie said. Rural leaders especially need to be heard.

“I believe that people around the state who are at the local level and responsible for the local economy ... did not have the voice that they needed,” Ritchie said from his office at the University of Denver, where he was chancellor for 16 years.

The group’s 2015 meetings resulted in three ideas that separate organizations then turned into successful ballot measures the next year. Amendment 71 made it harder for future amendments to get on the ballot and into the state constitution; Proposition 107 restored a presidential primary; and Proposition 108 allowed unaffiliated voters to participate in primary elections.

The key to Building a Better Colorado’s method comes in deciding who should be at each of these meetings. In each city, Brown will invite the mayor, school superintendent, chamber of commerce leader, and other high-profile leaders. Those people then decide who else should be invited. The result in Greeley was a room of about 60 well-connected citizens.

“There’s a good cross section and a good number of people here that their heart are in representing the community as a whole,” said Tom Norton, a former Republican state senator and mayor of Greeley.

Mike Roque, executive director of the Community Foundation of the San Luis Valley, attended a BBCO meeting in Alamosa this spring. He said the valley was represented well.

“We had ranchers, farmers, we had people from the nonprofit sector, the government sector,” he said. “And not that everyone agreed, but I think there was some consensus around the issues.”

Gov. Polis signs bills into law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 30, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Jared Polis signed the following bills into law.

SB19-188

FAMLI Family Medical Leave Insurance Program

Sens. Williams & Winter / Reps. Gray & Duran

Concerning the creation of a family and medical leave insurance program, and, in connection therewith, creating an implementation plan for a family and medical leave insurance program and making an appropriation.

HB19-1277

Computer Science Grant Program

Reps. Esgar & Cutter / Sens. Todd & Winter

Concerning the creation of the computer science grant program.

SB19-229

Campaign Contributions Dependent Care Expenses

Sens. Winter & Foote / Reps. Gonzalez-Gutierrez & Mullica

Concerning the use of campaign contributions to reimburse a candidate for dependent care expenses incurred by the candidate in undertaking campaign activities.

HB19-1261

Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution

Reps. Becker & Jackson / Sens. Winter & Williams

Concerning the reduction of greenhouse gas pollution, and, in connection therewith, establishing statewide greenhouse gas pollution reduction goals and making an appropriation.

HB19-1231

New Appliance Energy and Water Efficiency Standards

Reps. Froelich & Kipp / Sens. Lee & Priola

Concerning efficiency standards for equipment sold in Colorado, and, in connection therewith, requiring certain appliances, plumbing fixtures, and other products sold for residential or commercial use to meet energy efficiency and water efficiency standards.

HB19-1260

Building Energy Codes

Reps. Kipp & Valdez / Sens. Winter & Priola

Concerning an update to the minimum energy code for the construction of buildings.

HB19-1272

Housing Authority Property in Colorado New Energy Improvement District

Rep. Bird / Sens. Winter & Priola

Concerning housing authority participation in the Colorado new energy improvement district program.

SB19-236

Sunset Public Utilities Commission

Sens. Garcia & Fenberg / Reps. Hansen & Becker

Concerning the continuation of the public utilities commission, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies and making an appropriation.

HB19-1003

Community Solar Gardens Modernization Act

Reps. Hansen & Valdez / Sens. Foote & Story

Concerning community solar gardens.

SB19-096*

Collect Long-term Climate Change Data

Sen. Donovan, Rep. Hansen

Concerning the collection of greenhouse gas emissions data to facilitate the implementation of measures that would most cost-effectively allow the state to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-192

Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise Grant Program

Sens. Winter & Priola / Reps. Jackson & Cutter

Concerning the creation of an enterprise that is exempt from the requirements of section 20 of article X of the state constitution to administer a fee-based waste diversion grant program.

HB19-1247

Study Agricultural Applications for Blockchain

Reps. D. Valdez & Catlin / Sens. Donovan & Coram

Concerning a study by the commissioner of agriculture on the potential applications for blockchain technology in agricultural operations.

SB19-054

Military Vehicle Motor Vehicle Regulation

Sen. Crowder / Reps. D. Valdez & Exum

Concerning the regulation of surplus military vehicles for the purposes of operation on the highway, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1088

Modify Income Tax Credit Health Care Preceptors

Reps. Buck & D. Valdez / Sen. Donovan

Concerning modifications to the existing income tax credit for health care preceptors working in health care professional shortage areas, and, in connection therewith, clarifying the definition of "preceptorship" and extending the existing sunset date for the tax credit.

HB19-1045

Office of Public Guardianship Operation Conditions

Reps. Snyder & Soper / Sen. Ginal

Concerning funding for carrying out duties related to the office of public guardianship, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-172

Protect From Unlawful Abandonment And Confinement

Sens. Danielson & Ginal / Rep. Singer

Concerning crimes related to an at-risk person, and, in connection therewith, creating the crimes of unlawful abandonment and unlawful confinement and making an appropriation.

HB19-1253

Living Organ Donor Insurance

Reps. Landgraf & Buckner / Sens. Hisey & Gonzales

Concerning a prohibition on discrimination against a living organ donor in certain insurance policies.

SB19-261

Unclaimed Property Trust Fund Transfer

Sens. Moreno & Cooke / Reps. Esgar & Will

Concerning the transfer of money from the unclaimed property trust fund to the general fund.

SB19-015

Create Statewide Health Care Review Committee

Sen. Ginal / Reps. Beckman & Kipp

Concerning the creation of the statewide health care review committee to study health care issues that affect Colorado residents throughout the state, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-066

High-cost Special Education Trust Fund Grants

Sen. Todd / Rep. Buentello

Concerning high-cost special education grants awarded from a trust fund established for that purpose.

SB19-153

Sunset Podiatry Board

Sens. Fields / Reps. Kipp & Titone

Concerning the continuation of the Colorado podiatry board, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

SB19-164

Sunset In-home Support Services Program

Sens. Todd & Crowder / Rep. Mullica

Concerning the continuation of in-home support services within the "Colorado Medical Assistance Act", and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

SB19-180

Eviction Legal Defense Fund

Sen. Winter / Rep. McCluskie

Concerning the creation of an eviction legal defense fund, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1024

Colorado Youth Advisory Council Review Committee

Reps. McKean & Buentello / Sen. Todd & Coram

Concerning creation of the Colorado youth advisory council review committee, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-187

Commission on Judicial Performance

Sens. Lee & Gardner / Reps. Bird & McKean

Concerning commissions on judicial performance.

Governor Polis releases roadmap to 100 percent renewable energy and bold climate action

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 30, 2019

DENVER —Governor Polis today unveiled the administration's roadmap to 100 percent renewable energy by 2040. The roadmap details the bold steps which will take Colorado toward a clean energy future. This includes directions, policies and actions, as well as progress to date.

"This is our plan for creating a pathway to 100 percent renewable energy in our state, creating good green jobs that can never be outsourced, and saving people money on electricity," said Governor Jared Polis. "The roadmap is not just about a vision, but includes concrete steps that will help us reap the economic benefits of renewable energy, curb pollution of our air, and fight climate change. Colorado has always been a leader in clean-tech innovation and we have no intentions of slowing down."

Goals from the roadmap include:

- Modernizing the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
- Growing green jobs and saving consumers money
- Promoting energy efficiency
- More zero emission vehicles and commuting options
- Ensuring a just and equitable transition for all of Colorado
- Supporting the local commitment to 100 percent renewable energy
- Moving toward zero emissions buildings

The administration has already taken a number of significant steps to make the down payment on a commitment to 100 percent renewable energy.

Gov. Polis signs bills into law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Jared Polis signed the following bills into law.

HB19-1010

Freestanding Emergency Department Licensure

Reps. Mullica & Landgraf / Sens. Gardner Pettersen

Concerning the licensing of freestanding emergency departments, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1203

School Nurse Grant Program

Rep. Mullica / Sen. Todd

Concerning the creation of a grant program to increase the number of school nurses, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1278

Modifications To Uniform Election Code

Rep. Lontine / Sen. Fenberg

Concerning modifications to miscellaneous provisions of the "Uniform Election Code of 1992", and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-202

Voting Rights for Voters with Disabilities

Sens. Danielson & Zenzinger / Rep. Froelich

Concerning ballot access for voters with disabilities, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1318

The Clean Campaign Act Of 2019

Rep. Weissman / Sens. Bridges & Foote

Concerning increased transparency of money in elections consistent with the first amendment to the United States constitution, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-235

Automatic Voter Registration

Sens. Fenberg & Danielson / Reps. Esgar & Mullica

Concerning the transfer of electronic records by voter registration agencies in order to register voters, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-232

Campaign Finance Enforcement

Sen. Foote/ Rep. Weissman

Concerning the codification of the rules of the secretary of state addressing the procedures for the enforcement of state laws governing campaign finance.

SB19-175

Serious Bodily Injury Vulnerable Road User Penalties

Sen. Foote / Rep. Roberts

Concerning the penalties imposed on the driver of a motor vehicle who causes serious bodily injury to a vulnerable road user, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1284

Urban Drainage Flood Control District Board Directors

Reps. Titone & Beckman / Sens. Holbert & Moreno

Concerning the board of directors of the urban drainage and flood control district.

SB19-003

Educator Loan Forgiveness

Sens. Zenzinger & Coram / McLachlan & Wilson

Concerning the educator loan forgiveness program to address educator shortages, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-197

Continue Complementary Or Alternative Medicine Program

Sen. Zeninger & Rep. Kennedy

Concerning the continuation of the pilot program to allow an eligible person with a spinal cord injury to receive complementary or alternative medicine.

SB19-254

Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund

Sen. Zenzinger & Rep. Ransom

Concerning the nursing home penalty cash fund, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-263

Delay Referral Of TRANs Transportation Revenue Anticipation Notes Ballot Issue To 2020

Sens. Zenzinger & Rankin / Reps. Gray & Hansen

Concerning the delay until the November 2020 general election of the requirement that a ballot issue seeking approval for the issuance of transportation revenue anticipation notes be submitted to the voters of the state at the November 2019 statewide election, and, in connection therewith, amending the ballot issue to reduce the amount of notes authorized to be issued to offset the additional transportation funding that will result from the repeal of only two, rather than three, tranches of lease-purchase agreements authorized by Senate Bill 17-267 if the ballot issue is approved and extending from twenty to twenty-one years the period for which annual fifty million dollar transfers from the general fund to the state highway fund are required.

HB19-1076

Clean Indoor Air Act Add E-cigarettes Remove Exceptions

Reps. Michaelson Jenet & Larson / Sens. Priola & Donovan

Concerning updates to the "Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act", and, in connection therewith, removing certain exceptions and adding provisions relevant to the use of electronic smoking devices.

HB19-1295

County Treasurers to Serve as a Public Trustees

Reps. Rich & Becker / Sens. Scott & Story

Concerning a requirement that the county treasurer in specified counties serve as the public trustee for the county.

HB19-1188

Greenhouse Gas Pollution Impact In Fiscal Notes

Reps. Sirota & Snyder / Sen. Foote

Concerning the inclusion of the net impact on greenhouse gas pollution in the fiscal notes prepared for legislative measures, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1230

Marijuana Hospitality Establishments

Reps. Singer & Melton / Sens. Marble & Gonzales

Concerning marijuana hospitality establishments, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1234

Regulated Marijuana Delivery

Reps. Valdez & Singer / Sens. Gonzales & Marble

Concerning allowing delivery of regulated marijuana by regulated marijuana sellers, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1090

Publicly Licensed Marijuana Companies

Reps. Gray & Van Winkle / Sens. Gonzales & Hill

Concerning measures to allow greater investment flexibility in marijuana businesses, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-224

Sunset Regulated Marijuana

Sens. Gonzales & Fenberg / Reps. Herod & Van Winkle

Concerning the continuation of the regulated marijuana programs, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies and making an appropriation.

SB19-218

Sunset Medical Marijuana Program

Sens. Gonzales / Rep. Jaquez Lewis

Concerning the continuation of the medical marijuana program, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies and making an appropriation.

HB19-1311

Institute Of Cannabis Research Role And Mission

Rep. Singer / Sen. Bridges

Concerning the creation of the institute of cannabis research at Colorado State University - Pueblo.

SB19-215

Parents Encouraging Parents Conference

Sen. Rodriguez / Rep. Lontine

Concerning the creation of the parents encouraging parents conference for parents of children with disabilities, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-156

Sunset State Electrical Board

Sen. Rodriguez / Rep. Sullivan

Concerning the continuation of the state electrical board, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

SB19-165

Increase Parole Board Membership

Sen. Rodriguez / Reps. Hansen & Ransom

Concerning the membership of the state board of parole, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1327

Authorize and Tax Sports Betting Refer Under TABOR

Reps. Garnett & Neville / Sens. Donovan & Cooke

Concerning sports betting, and, in connection therewith, submitting to the registered electors of the state of Colorado a ballot measure authorizing the collection of a tax on the net proceeds of sports betting through licensed casinos, directing the revenues generated through collection of the sports betting tax to specified public purposes, including the state water plan through creation of the water plan implementation cash fund, and making an appropriation.

HB19-1214

Joint Budget Committee Requirement To Recommend Capital Financing Methods

Reps. Hansen & Sens. Rankin

Concerning a requirement that the joint budget committee recommend new methods to finance the state's ongoing capital needs.

HB19-1255

Mesa Verde National Park License Plate

Reps. Hansen & Catlin / Sens. Coram & Zenzinger

Concerning the creation of a Mesa Verde National Park license plate.

SB19-220

Hemp Regulation Alignment With 2018 Federal Farm Bill

Sens. Marble & Fenberg / Reps. Saine & Arndt

Concerning updates to the industrial hemp regulatory program administered by the commissioner of agriculture to align the program with the regulatory requirements set forth in the federal "Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018", and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-240

Industrial Hemp Products Regulation

Sens. Marble & Fenberg / Reps. McLachlan & Saine

Concerning the regulation of commercial products containing industrial hemp.

Gov. Polis signs bills into law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Jared Polis signed the following bills into law.

HB19-1266

Restore Voting Rights Parolees

Rep. Herod / Sen. Fenberg

Concerning the voting rights of persons serving a sentence of parole, and in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1025

Limits On Job Applicant Criminal History Inquiries

Reps. Melton & Herod / Sens. Foote & Rodriguez

Concerning the timing of an inquiry into a job applicant's criminal history, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-170

Inquiry Into College Applicant Criminal History

Sens. Rodriguez & Tate / Reps. Herod & Soper

Concerning an inquiry into a college applicant's nonacademic conduct prior to admission.

SB19-143

Parole Changes

Sens. Gonzales & Lee / Rep. Herod

Concerning changes related to parole release to alleviate prison population issues, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1250

Sexual Assault While In Custody Or Detained

Rep. Herod / Sen. Danielson

Concerning sex offenses committed by a peace officer, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-191

Prompt Pretrial Liberty And Fairness

Sens. Bridges & Marble / Reps. Herod & Gonzales-Gutierrez

Concerning defendants' rights related to pretrial bond.

SB19-259

Use CSP II To House Inmates In An Emergency

Sens. Garcia & Hisey / Reps. Herod & Wilson

Concerning measures to address prison population management issues, and, in connection therewith, authorizing the emergency use of the Centennial south campus of the Centennial correctional facility to house inmates.

SB19-231

Colorado Second Chance Scholarship

Sens. Moreno & Bridges / Reps. Exum & Tipper

Concerning the creation of the Colorado second chance scholarship in the pursuit of higher education for youth previously committed to the division of youth services, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1263*

Offense Level For Controlled Substance Possession

Sens. Marble & Lee / Reps. Herod and Sandridge

Concerning changing the penalty for certain violations pursuant to the "Uniform Controlled Substances Act of 2013", and, in connection therewith, making and reducing an appropriation.

HB19-1205

Reimburse Expenses Restorative Justice Council

Sen. Court / Rep. Arndt

Concerning allowing reimbursement for expenses for members of the restorative justice coordinating council.

SB19-036

State Court Administrator Reminder Program

Sens. Lee & Cooke / Reps. Benavidez & Carver

Concerning requiring the state court administrator to administer a program to remind criminal defendants to appear in court as scheduled, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-108

Juvenile Justice Reform

Sens. Lee & Gardner / Reps. Michaelson Jenet & Soper

Concerning changes to improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1275

Increased Eligibility For Criminal Record Sealing

Sen. Lee / Reps. Weissman & Soper

Concerning increased eligibility for the sealing of criminal justice records by individuals who are not under supervision, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1064

Victim Notification Criminal Proceedings

Reps. Sullivan & Baisley / Sens. Foote & Cooke

Concerning eliminating requirements that victims must opt in to effect their rights in criminal proceedings, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-230

Colorado Refugee Services Program

Sen. Moreno / Rep. Herod

Concerning the Colorado refugee services program.

SB19-139

More Colorado Road And Community Safety Act Offices

Sens. Coram & Moreno / Reps. Galindo & Singer

Concerning the issuance by the department of revenue of identification documents to people who are not lawfully present in Colorado on a permanent basis, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1124

Protect Colorado Residents From Federal Government Overreach

Sens. Foote & J. Gonzales / Reps. Benavidez & Gonzales

Concerning clarification of the authority of criminal justice officials with respect to the enforcement of certain federal civil laws.

HB19-1073

Law Enforcement Information Sharing Grant Program

Sen. Fields / Rep. Benavidez

Concerning the creation of the law enforcement, public safety, and criminal justice information sharing grant program, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-030

Remedying Improper Guilty Pleas

Sen. Gonzales / Rep. Tipper

Concerning a remedy for improperly entered guilty pleas, and in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1192

Inclusion Of American Minorities In Teaching Civil Government

Reps. Gonzales-Gutierrez & Buentello / Sen. Gonzales

Concerning the inclusion of matters relating to American minorities in the teaching of social contributions in civil government in public schools, and, in connection therewith, establishing the history, culture, social contributions, and civil government in education commission to make recommendations to include the history, culture, and social contributions of American Indians, Latinos, African Americans, and Asian Americans, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals within these minority groups, the contributions and persecution of religious minorities, and the intersectionality of significant social and cultural features within these communities, in the teaching and content standards for history and civics, and making an appropriation.

HB19-1310

Interest On Orders Of Restitution

Reps. Melton & Gonzales-Gutierrez / Sen. Lee

Concerning interest on orders of restitution, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1335

Juvenile Record Expungement Clean-up

Reps. Gonzales-Gutierrez & Bockenfeld / Sens. Lee & Cooke

Concerning expungement of juvenile records, and, in connection therewith, making clarifying changes to the expungement process and procedure and clarifying that juvenile record expungement applies to municipal courts.

HB19-1315

Admissibility Of Statements By A Juvenile

Reps. Gonzales-Gutierrez & Michaelson Jenet / Sen. Gonzales

Concerning the admissibility of statements by a juvenile.

HB19-1232

Aligning Indian Child Welfare Act Requirements

Reps. Gonzales - Gutierrez & Catlin / Sens. Coram & Rodriguez

Concerning the alignment of compliance with the federal "Indian Child Welfare Act".

SB19-200

Alcohol Beverage Consumption National Western Center

Sen. Gonzales / Reps. Valdez & Humphrey

Concerning an exception to the prohibition on removing an alcohol beverage from a premises licensed to serve alcohol beverages at the national western center.

SB19-245

Time Requirements For Food Stamp Appeals

Sen. Gonzales / Rep. Tipper

Concerning granting the department of human services rule-making authority to amend the length of time permitted to satisfy administrative appeal requirements for the food stamp program in order to comply with federal law.

SB19-249

License Business Selling Its Used Motor Vehicles

Sens. Gonzales & Scott / Reps. Benavidez & Bockenfeld

Concerning the licensing of a business selling used motor vehicles that the business used for its purposes, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1127

Lieutenant Governor Concurrent State Service

Reps. Garnett & Lontine / Sens Fenberg & Fields

Concerning the appointment of the lieutenant governor to serve concurrently as the director of the office of saving people money on health care, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1282

Court-appointed Special Advocate Program Oversight

Reps. Singer & Michaelson Jenet / Sens. Smallwood & Donovan

Concerning administration of the court-appointed special advocate program.

HB19-1307

Clarify Disclosure Of A Report To At-risk Adult

Reps. Kraft-Tharp & Larson / Sens. Lee & Gardner

Concerning the clarification that the disclosure of a report of the mistreatment or self-neglect of an at-risk adult shall only be made to the at-risk adult who is the subject of the report.

HB19-1332

Telephone Users Disabilities Fund Talking Book Library

Rep. Hansen / Sen. Zenzinger

Concerning the use of money in the Colorado telephone users with disabilities fund to provide talking book library services for certain persons with disabilities, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-177

Background Checks Persons Who Work With Children

Sens. Ginal & Hisey / Rep. Singer

Concerning matters related to background checks for persons who have contact with children.

SB19-256

Electronic Documents Motor Vehicle Appropriation

Sen. Bridges / Rep. Esgar

Concerning electronic documents related to the ownership of a vehicle.

SB19-146

Sunset Home Care Agencies

Sen. Pettersen / Rep. Kennedy

Concerning the continuation of the regulation by the department of public health and environment of entities that provide home care services, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

SB19-196

Colorado Quality Apprenticeship Training Act Of 2019

Sens. Lee & Danielson / Reps. Garnett & Duran

Concerning the modification of procurement requirements for state contracts for public projects.

SB19-171

Apprenticeships And Vocational Technical Training

Sens. Danielson & Bridges / Reps. Sullivan & Galindo

Concerning the creation of the Colorado state apprenticeship resource directory, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1294

Transfer Apprenticeship Credit To College Credit

Reps. Benavidez & Jaquez Lewis / Sen. Story

Concerning a requirement that the chief administrative officer of the Colorado community college system create a working group to determine the best manner in which to facilitate the transfer of earned construction industry registered apprenticeship program credit to college credit, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-238

Improve Wages And Accountability Home Care Workers

Sens. Danielson & Moreno / Reps. Kennedy & Duran

Concerning home care agencies, and, in connection therewith, requiring certain agencies to expend a minimum percentage of their reimbursements from the "Colorado Medical Assistance Act" as wages for employees who provide direct care, requiring the department of health care policy and financing to enforce training requirements and request an increase to the reimbursement rate for certain services provided under the "Colorado Medical Assistance Act", and making an appropriation.

HB19-1210

Local Government Minimum Wage

Reps. Melton & Galindo / Sens. Danielson & Moreno

Concerning the repeal of the prohibitions on a local government establishing minimum wage laws within its jurisdiction.

HB19-1306

Monitoring Colorado Call Center Job Losses

Reps. Esgar & Galindo / Sen. Rodriguez

Concerning the monitoring of Colorado call center job losses.

HB19-1314

Just Transition From Coal-based Electrical Energy Economy

Reps. Becker & Galindo / Sens. Winter & Donovan

Concerning a just transition from a coal-based electrical energy economy, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1107

Employment Support Job Retention Services Program

Rep. Coleman / Sens. Fields & Priola

Concerning the creation of the employment support and job retention services program within the division of employment and training in the department of labor and employment, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

Gov. Polis signs bills into law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 23, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Jared Polis signed the following bills into law.

HB19-1239

Census Outreach Grant Program

Reps. Tipper & Caraveo / Sens. Priola & Winter

Concerning the promotion of an accurate count in the decennial census by creating a census outreach program, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-251

Requirements Of OIT Office Of Information Technology Based On Evaluation Recommendations

Sens. Ranking & Todd / Reps. Hansen & Titone

Concerning the implementation of certain recommendations from the independent evaluation of the state's information technology resources, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-252

State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act Committee Hearings

Sen. Moreno / Reps. Esgar & Hansen

Concerning the timing of joint committee of reference hearings under the "State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act", and, in connection therewith, reducing an appropriation.

SB19-253

Exempt CDE Department Of Education From Office Of Information Technology

Sen. Rankin / Reps. Esgar & Ransom

Concerning specifying that the department of education is not a state agency for purposes of the office of information technology.

HB19-1308

Foster Care Prevention Services

Reps. Singer & Landgraf / Sens. Moreno & Rankin

Concerning foster care prevention services to align current standards with the federal "Family First Prevention Services Act".

SB19-258

Child Welfare Prevention and Intervention Funding

Sen. Rankin / Rep. Esgar

Concerning child welfare services funded through federal child welfare laws, and, in connection therewith, making and reducing an appropriation.

HB19-1331

Remove Limitation On Evidence-based Practices Implementation For Capacity Resource Center Collaboration

Reps. Hansen & Ransom / Sen. Rankin

Concerning removing the limit on the departments with which the evidence-based practices implementation for capacity resource center can collaborate.

HB19-1133

Colorado Child Abuse Response And Evaluation Network

Reps. Caraveo & Pelton / Sen. Fields

Concerning the creation of a Colorado child abuse response and evaluation network, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-157

Sunset Fire Suppression Registration And Inspection

Sen. Winter / Rep. Cutter

Concerning the continuation of the fire suppression programs of the division of fire prevention and control in the department of public safety, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendation contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

HB19-1184

Demographic Notes For Certain Legislative Bills

Reps. Herod & Caraveo / Sen. Williams

Concerning a requirement that staff of the legislative council prepare demographic notes on certain legislative bills, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1240*

Sales And Use Tax Administration

Reps. Kraft-Tharp & Van Winkle / Sens. Court & Tate

Concerning sales and use tax administration, and, in connection therewith, establishing economic nexus for retailers without physical presence in the state, codifying the destination sourcing rule with a specified exception, requiring marketplace facilitators to collect and remit sales tax for sales made by marketplace sellers on the marketplace facilitator's marketplace, and repealing obsolete statutory references to remote sellers.

HB19-1142

Safe Family Option For Parents

Reps. Ransom & Singer / Sens. Moreno & Smallwood

Concerning creating an option for parents who seek to voluntarily delegate certain parental responsibilities to a safe family for a limited period of time without relinquishing legal custody of their child, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1162

Expand Farm Equipment Sales And Use Tax Exemption

Reps. Pelton & Valdez / Sens. Sonnenberg & Garcia

Concerning the extension of the state sales and use tax exemption for farm equipment to ear tags and ear tag scanners used by a farm operation to identify or track food animals.

HB19-1329

Wholesale Sales Agricultural Fertilizer Tax Exempt

Reps. Ardnt & McKean / Sens. Sonnenberg & Garcia

Concerning the sales and use tax treatment of certain wholesale sales related to the production of agricultural products.

HB19-1215

Child Support Commission Recommendations

Rep. Singer & Sen. Crowder

Concerning legislative recommendations of the Colorado child support commission, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1289

Consumer Protection Act

Rep. Weissman / Sens. Foote & Gonzales

Concerning the creation of additional protections in the Colorado consumer code, and, in connection therewith, enabling enforcement of the "Colorado Consumer Protection Act" for reckless acts.

HB19-1323

Occasional Sales By Charitable Organizations

Reps. Herod & Van Winkle / Sens. Todd & Lundeen

Concerning an exemption from state sales tax for occasional sales by charitable organizations.

SB19-248

State Tax System Working Group

Sens. Tate & Bridges / Reps. Singer & Baisley

Concerning a requirement that the director of research of the legislative council convene a working group to conduct an analysis of the state tax system used by the department of revenue, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1221

Regulation Of Electric Scooters

Reps. Coleman & Valdez / Sens. Bridges & Pettersen

Concerning the regulation of electric scooters.

HB19-1009

Substance Use Disorders Recovery

Reps. Kennedy & Singer / Sens. Priola & Pettersen

Concerning supports for persons recovering from substance use disorders, and, in connection therewith, expanding a program in the department of local affairs that provides vouchers for housing assistance to certain individuals, creating standards for recovery residences for purposes of referrals and title protection, creating the opioid crisis recovery funds advisory committee, creating the recovery residence certification grant program, and making an appropriation.

SB19-008

Substance Use Disorder Treatment In Criminal Justice System

Sens. Priola & Pettersen / Reps. Kennedy & Singer

Concerning treatment of individuals with substance use disorders who come into contact with the criminal justice system, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-227

Harm Reduction Substance Use Disorders

Sens. Pettersen & Gonzales / Reps. Kennedy & Herod

Concerning the identification of certain individuals with a substance use disorder; and making an appropriation.

SB19-228

Substance Use Disorders Prevention Measures

Sens. Winter & Moreno / Reps. Buentello & Singer

Concerning the safe use, storage, and disposal of antagonist drugs; and making an appropriation.

SB19-219

Sunset Continue Licensing Of Controlled Substances

Sen. Pettersen / Rep. Gonzales - Gutierrez

Concerning the continuation of the "Colorado Licensing of Controlled Substances Act", and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

HB19-1031

Child Patient More Than One Primary Caregiver

Rep. Gray / Sen. Gonzales

Concerning allowing each parental guardian to serve as a minor medical marijuana patient's primary caregiver, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1179

Public Fund Investments

Rep. Gray / Sen. Lee

Concerning the financial risk profiles of legal investments of public funds.

HB19-1300

Vehicle Identification Number Inspection Fee

Reps. Gray & Landgraf / Sens. Cooke & Pettersen

Concerning vehicle identification number inspections performed by a peace officer certified to perform the inspection.

HB19-1309

Mobile Home Park Act Oversight

Reps. Hooton & McCluskie / Sens. Fenberg & Lee

Concerning the regulation of mobile home parks, and, in connection therewith, granting counties the power to enact ordinances for mobile home parks, extending the time to move or sell a mobile home after eviction proceedings, creating the "Mobile Home Park Act Dispute Resolution and Enforcement Program", and making an appropriation.

SB19-013

Medical Marijuana Condition Opiates Prescribed For

Sens. Marble & Ginal / Reps. Hooton & Ransom

Concerning the conditions for medical marijuana use for disabling medical conditions, and, in connection therewith, adding a condition for which a physician could prescribe an opioid to the list of disabling medical conditions for medical marijuana use.

HB19-1193

Behavioral Health Supports for High Risk Families

Reps. Herod & Pelton / Sen. Garcia

Concerning behavioral health supports for high-risk families, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

Gov. Polis signs bills into law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Jared Polis signed the following bills into law.

SB19-085

Equal Pay For Equal Work Act

Sens. Danielson & Pettersen / Reps. Buckner & Gonzales-Gutierrez

Concerning the creation of the "Equal Pay for Equal Work Act" in order to implement measures to prevent pay disparities.

HB19-1216

Reduce Insulin Prices

Rep. Roberts / Sens. Donovan & Priola

Concerning measures to reduce a patient's costs of prescription insulin drugs, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-166

Peace Officers Standards And Training Board Revoke Certification For Untruthful Statement

Sens. Fields & Gardner / Rep. Roberts

Concerning the P.O.S.T. board revoking the certification of a peace officer who is found to have made an untruthful statement, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1283

Disclosure Of Insurance Liability Coverage

Rep. Roberts / Sen. Rodriguez

Concerning insurance policies, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1183

Automated External Defibrillators In Public Places

Rep. Roberts / Sen. Bridges

Concerning the placement of automated external defibrillators in public places, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1229

Electronic Preservation Of Abandoned Estate Documents

Reps. Roberts & Snyder / Sens. Gardner & Lee

Concerning the "Colorado Electronic Preservation of Abandoned Estate Planning Documents Act".

Gov. Polis Announces Boards and Commissions Appointments

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Judicial Nominating Commissions

There is a judicial district nominating commission for each of Colorado's 22 judicial districts that selects nominees for district and county judicial vacancies. Each district nominating commission is chaired by a justice of the Supreme Court, who is a non-voting member of the commission.

Supreme Court Nominating Commission

for terms expiring December 31, 2020:

- Deborah Anne Suniga of Greeley, Colorado, to serve as a non-attorney and as a Democrat from the Fourth Congressional District, and occasioned by the resignation of Tracee Bentley of Severance, Colorado, appointed;

Colorado Medical Board

The Colorado Medical Board reviews applications for medical licenses. In cases involving any professional or ethical violations of the Medical Practices Act, the board holds hearings and assists the state's district attorneys in the prosecution of all persons, firms, associations, or corporations charged with improper conduct.

for a term expiring May 3, 2023:

- Amy Elizabeth Colen of Evergreen, Colorado, to serve as a member of the public, reappointed;
- Donald Jay Lefkowits, MD, FACEP of Denver, Colorado, to serve as a doctor of medicine, reappointed;
- Lesley Clark Brooks, MD, of Greeley, Colorado, to serve as a doctor of medicine, appointed;
- Roland Flores, Jr., MD, of Denver, Colorado, to serve as a doctor of medicine, appointed.

Oil and Gas Conservation Commission of the State of Colorado

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) promotes the responsible development of Colorado's oil and gas natural resources by balancing the efficient exploration and production of oil and gas resources, the prevention of waste and the protection of the public health, environment and mineral owners' rights.

pursuant to C.R.S. § 34-60-104, effective May 16, 2019 for a term expiring July 1, 2020:

- Brenda Haun of Grover, Colorado, to serve as an agricultural production or royalty member, and as an Unaffiliated, appointed. Ms. Haun is a veterinarian and she and her family own a cattle ranch in Weld County.
- Erin Overturf of Denver, Colorado, to serve as an environmental protection member, and as a Democrat, appointed. Ms. Overturf is Deputy Director, Clean Energy Program with Western Resource Advocates.
- Howard Boigon of Denver, Colorado, to serve as a member with experience in the oil and gas industry, and as a Democrat, appointed. Mr. Boigon is an oil and gas attorney with many years of experience in the industry.
- John Messner of Gunnison, Colorado, to serve as a local government member, and as a Democrat, appointed. Mr. Messner is a Gunnison County Commissioner.
- Liane Jollon of Durango, Colorado, to serve as a member with experience in public health, and as an Unaffiliated, appointed. Ms. Jollon is the Director of San Juan Basin Public Health.
- Mark Hopkins of Broomfield, Colorado, to serve as a member with technical expertise relevant to the issues considered by the commission, and as a Republican, appointed. Mr. Hopkins is a retired engineer following a career with the Chevron Corporation.
- Pam Eaton of Boulder, Colorado, to serve as a wildlife protection member, and as a Democrat, appointed. Ms. Eaton is founder of Green West Strategies, a consulting firm focusing on conservation and renewable energy and former Deputy Vice President with The Wilderness Society.

State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners

The State Board of Stock Inspection Commission makes rules regarding brand inspection and livestock laws and regulates fees for stock inspections. The commission also sets service charges and procedures, administers the Estray Fund, licenses public livestock markets, and secures bond and surety on butchers and slaughters.

for terms expiring May 1, 2023:

- Kory Allen Kessinger of Akron, Colorado, to serve as a representative of the confinement cattle industry, reappointed;
- David H. Mendenhall of Rocky Ford Colorado, to serve as a representative of the non-confinement cattle industry, reappointed.

Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp Committee

The Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp Committee shall annually review proposed projects for expenditure of Colorado wildlife habitat stamp funds and make recommendations to the director and the wildlife commission.

for terms expiring December 31, 2022:

- Timothy Brass of Longmont, Colorado, at large member, reappointed;
- Thomas Duane Brossia of Durango, Colorado, a sports person, reappointed;
- Daniel C. Gates of Canon City, Colorado, a sports person, reappointed;
- Robert William Winn of Rifle, Colorado, a sports person, appointed
- Ashley Johnson Rust of Denver, Colorado, a representative of a national or regionally recognized conservation organization whose mission is focused on nongame wildlife and whose membership is composed primarily of nongame wildlife users, appointed.

Gov. Polis signs free, full-day kindergarten bill into law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Jared Polis today signed HB19-1262, State Funding for Full-day Kindergarten into law, marking one of the largest investments in early childhood education in Colorado’s history. Funds set aside by the Joint Budget Committee in March will fund full-day kindergarten in addition to freeing up more than 5,000 preschool slots. In addition, Governor Polis signed HB19-1055, which provides \$25 million to help school districts with kindergarten and preschool implementation costs such as furniture and equipment this year. With today’s signing, districts across the state are empowered to start offering free full-day kindergarten this fall.

“We are so excited that now every child in Colorado will have access to free, full-day kindergarten,” said Governor Jared Polis. “No longer will a family have to choose between paying for kindergarten or making rent. This will save families thousands of dollars each year and open the door for others who could not afford it. This big step forward for Colorado children has been many years in the making. A broad, bipartisan coalition has worked tirelessly to see this vision become reality.”

The Governor was joined by Representative Jim Wilson and Senators Jeff Bridges, Dominic Moreno, Rhonda Fields, and a number of other legislators for the signing at Stedman Elementary School in Denver.

This bill will fully fund full-day kindergarten through the School Finance Act formula. The bill also:

- Frees up resources for school districts that currently subsidize full-day kindergarten to spend on other priorities, including increasing teacher pay, decreasing class size, and purchasing new technologies.
- Provides access to free full-day kindergarten for families, saving Colorado parents up to \$500 per month on tuition fees.
- Narrows persistent achievement gaps by helping to provide free full-day kindergarten to every single child — regardless of their zip code.
- Allows school districts that currently use ECARE for full-day kindergarten to retain ECARE slots to use for full or half-day preschool within that district.
- Clarifies that nothing requires a child to attend full-day kindergarten or prohibits a school district from offering half-day kindergarten.

Gov. Polis signs bills into law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 20, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Jared Polis signed the following bills into law.

SB19-163

Sunset Cold Case Task Force

Sen. Marble / Rep. Galindo

Concerning the continuation of the cold case task force, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

HB19-1189

Wage Garnishment Reform

Reps. Gray & Valdez / Sens. Bridges & Fields

Concerning wage garnishment reform, and, in connection therewith, reducing disposable earnings by health insurance premiums, reducing the amount that is subject to garnishment, and providing more detailed information to the judgment debtor regarding garnishment.

SB19-165

Increase Parole Board Membership

Sen. Rodriguez / Reps. Hansen & Ransom

Concerning the membership of the state board of parole, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-161

Sunset Council For Parent Involvement In Education

Sens. Bridges & Story / Rep. Kipp

Concerning the continuation of the state advisory council for parent involvement in education, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies and making an appropriation.

HB19-1288

Foster Youth Sibling Bill Of Rights

Reps. Singer & Duran / Sens. Fields & Crowder

Concerning increasing protections to ensure foster youth siblings maintain sibling relationships by providing foster youth siblings with certain rights, and, in connection therewith, establishing the foster youth sibling bill of rights.

SB19-061

Self-contained Breathing Apparatus Testing And Certification

Sens. Tate & Zenzinger / Reps. Arndt & Hooton

Concerning standards for the certification of certain types of respirators equipped with pressure vessels, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-145

Sunset Continue Dialysis Clinic And Technician Regulation

Sen. Todd / Rep. Valdez

Concerning the continuation of the regulation of dialysis care by the department of public health and environment.

SB19-194

National Guard Tuition Assistance Colorado State University Global

Sens. Garcia & Zenzinger/ Reps. Froelich & Van Winkle

Concerning the addition of Colorado state university - global campus as a designated institution of higher education for purposes of tuition assistance for members of the National Guard.

SB19-205

Honor Service Of Women Veterans

Sens. Danielson & Zenzinger/ Reps. Michaelson Jenet & Duran

Concerning the creation of a license plate to honor women veterans of the United States armed forces, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-167

Honor Colorado Professional Fire Fighters

Sen. Danielson & Reps. Exum & Duran

Concerning the creation of a Colorado professional fire fighters license plate, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1080

Benefits For First Responders With A Disability

Rep. Bockenfeld/ Sens. Cooke & Garcia

Concerning benefits for first responders with a disability.

HB19-1244

Expand Peace Officer Mental Health Support Program

Reps. Coleman & Carver / Sens. Fields & Gardner

Concerning the peace officers mental health support grant program, and, in connection therewith, allowing certain agencies to apply for grants from the program and expanding the permissible uses of money awarded as grants under the program.

SB19-136

Expand Division Youth Services Pilot Program

Reps. Gonzalez & Gutierrez / Sen. Lee

Concerning an expansion of the pilot program in the division of youth services, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1160

Mental Health Facility Pilot Program

Reps. Landgraf & Singer / Sen. Lee

Concerning a mental health facility pilot program, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-222

Individuals At Risk Of Institutionalization

Sens. Lee & Story / Reps. Esgar & Landgraf

Concerning the improvement of access to behavioral health services for individuals at risk of institutionalization, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-223

Actions Related To Competency To Proceed

Sens. Lee & Gardner / Reps. Weissman & Landgraf

Concerning actions related to competency to proceed, and, in connection therewith, making and reducing an appropriation.

HB19-1170

Residential Tenants Health And Safety Act

Reps. Jackson & Weissman / Sens. Williams & Bridges

Concerning increasing tenant protections relating to the residential warranty of habitability.

HB19-1118

Time Period To Cure Lease Violation

Reps. Jackson & Galindo/ Sen. Williams

Concerning the time allowed for a tenant to cure a lease violation that is not a substantial violation.

HB19-1138

Vehicle Transfer Registration Fee Credit

Reps. Williams & Melton / Sens. Williams & Priola

Concerning the credit an owner of a vehicle may receive for fees paid to register a motor vehicle when the vehicle is sold before the registration expires, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1248

Lobbyist Transparency Act

Reps. Weissman & Cutter / Sen. Foote

Concerning measures to promote transparency about the activities of persons lobbying state government officials, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1085

Grants For Property Tax Rent And Heat

Rep. Exum / Sen. Zenzinger

Concerning the property-related expense assistance grants for low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-149

Sunset Human Trafficking Council

Sens. Garcia & Marble / Rep. Froelich

Concerning the continuation of the Colorado human trafficking council.

SB19-150

Sunset Public Livestock Markets

Sens. Donovan & Sonnenberg/ Reps. Buentello & Pelton

Concerning the continuation of the regulation of public livestock markets, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

SB19-244

Management Of Legislative Workplace Conduct

Sens. Winter & Gardner / Rep. Lontine

Concerning statutory changes to implement changes to the workplace policies of the general assembly, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1246

Local Government Regulation Of Food Trucks

Reps. Van Winkle & Kraft-Tharp/ Sens. Cooke & Moreno

Concerning the regulation of food truck businesses by local governments.

SB19-155

Sunset Accountancy Board

Sens. Williams & Priola / Reps. Kraft-Tharp & Snyder

Concerning the continuation of the state board of accountancy, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

SB19-173

Colorado Secure Savings Plan Board

Sens. Donovan & Pettersen / Reps. Kraft-Tharp & Hansen

Concerning the creation of the Colorado secure savings plan board to study appropriate approaches to increase the amount of retirement savings by Colorado's private sector workers, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1217

PERA Public Employees' Retirement Association Local Government Division Member Contribution Rate

Rep. Becker / Sens. Court & Tate

Concerning the elimination of the two percent increase in the member contribution rate to the public employees' retirement association for members in the local government division of the association.

HB19-1219

Child Welfare Permanency Planning
Rep. Gonzales-Gutierrez/ Sen. Crowder
Concerning modernization of the permanency hearing statutes.

HB19-1128

Lottery Intercepts
Reps. Kraft-Tharp & Saine / Sens. Fields & Smallwood
Concerning intercepts, and, in connection therewith, intercepting lottery winnings to pay outstanding court obligations.

HB19-1023

Foster Children Driving Licenses
Reps. Saine & Jackson / Sens. Marble & Todd
Concerning issuance of driving authorization documents to foster children who are under eighteen years of age, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, May 17, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Jared Polis signed the following bills into law.

HB19-1228

Increase Tax Credit Allocation Affordable Housing
Reps. Bird & Titone/ Sens. Zenzinger & Tate
Concerning an increase in the aggregate amount of the tax credits that the Colorado housing and finance authority may allocate in a calendar year under the Colorado affordable housing tax credit.

HB19-1245

Affordable Housing Funding From Vendor Fee Changes
Rep. Weissman / Sens. Gonzales & Foote
Concerning an increase in affordable housing funding from increased state sales tax revenue that results from a modification to the state sales tax vendor fee, and, in connection therewith, enacting the "Affordable Housing Act of 2019" and making an appropriation.

HB19-1319

Incentives Developers Facilitate Affordable Housing
Reps. Bird & McKean / Sens. Winter & Hisey
Concerning incentives to assist land developers in providing affordable housing statewide, and, in connection therewith, identifying nondeveloped land owned by the state that could be developed for affordable housing purposes and making modifications to the administration of an existing property tax exemption that applies to certain affordable housing developments.

HB19-1322

Expand Supply Affordable Housing
Reps. Roberts and Will / Sens. Moreno & Coram
Concerning the use of money from certain state funds to expand the supply of affordable housing statewide.

HB19-1207

Winter Conditions And Traction Control Requirements

Rep. Roberts / Sens. Donovan & Rankin

Concerning a requirement that motor vehicles meet traction-control standards for winter conditions.

HB19-1265

Right-Of-Way For Snowplows In Echelon Formation

Reps. Esgar & Soper / Sens. Rankin & Winter

Concerning the penalty for a person who passes a snowplow that is performing its service function in echelon formation with at least one other snowplow, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1168

State Innovation Waiver Reinsurance Program

Reps. McCluskie & Rich / Sens. Donovan & Rankin

Concerning the creation of the Colorado reinsurance program to provide reinsurance payments to health insurers to aid in paying high-cost insurance claims, and, in connection therewith, authorizing the commissioner of insurance to seek approval from the federal government to waive applicable federal requirements, request federal funds, or both, to enable the state to implement the program, making the program contingent upon waiver or funding approval, and making an appropriation.

SB19-004

Address High-cost Health Insurance Pilot Program

Sen. Donovan/ Reps. Roberts & McCluskie

Concerning measures to address the high costs of health insurance in the state, and, in connection therewith, modifying the health care coverage cooperatives laws to include consumer protections and allow consumers to collectively negotiate rates directly with providers.

HB19-1004

Proposal For Affordable Health Coverage Option

Reps. Roberts & Catlin/ Sen. Donovan

Concerning a proposal for implementing a competitive state option for more affordable health care coverage in Colorado, and, in connection therewith, requesting authorization to use existing federal money for the proposed state option and taking other actions toward the implementation of the state option, and making an appropriation.

SB19-141

Entertainment Districts Counties Optional Premises

Sen. Donovan / Rep. Roberts

Concerning the authority to create an entertainment district, and, in connection therewith, authorizing an entertainment district within a county or city and county and permitting an optional premises to be included in an entertainment district.

HB19-1259

Species Conservation Trust Fund Projects

Reps. Roberts & Pelton / Sen. Donovan

Concerning support for species conservation trust fund projects, and, in connection therewith, making transfers to and appropriations from the species conservation trust fund for purposes recommended by the department of natural resources.

SB19-159

Sunset Passenger Tramway Safety Board

Sens. Bridges & Donovan / Rep. McCluskie

Concerning the continuation of the passenger tramway safety board, and, in connection therewith, implementing some of the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

SB19-078

Open Internet Customer Protections In Colorado

Sens. Donovan & Bridges / Reps. Hansen & Herod

Concerning the protection of the open internet, and, in connection therewith, disqualifying an internet service provider from receiving high cost support mechanism money or other money received to finance broadband deployment if the internet service provider engages in certain practices that interfere with the open internet, requiring an internet service provider that engages in such practices to refund any such money received, and requiring a governmental body contracting for broadband internet access service to give preference to an internet service provider that certifies that it will not engage in practices that interfere with the open internet.

SB19-162

Sunset River Outfitter Advisory Committee

Sen. Coram / Rep. McCluskie

Concerning the continuation of the river outfitter advisory committee, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

HB19-1299

Local Government Retirement Plan Contribution Rates

Reps. McCluskie & Rich / Sen. Donovan

Concerning flexibility in the contribution rates to a local government retirement plan or system.

SB19-178

Program to Subsidize Adoption for Children and Youth

Sen. Foote / Rep. Singer

Concerning the subsidization of adoption for eligible children in Colorado, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-234

Sunset Professional Review Committees

Sens. Rodriguez & Foote / Rep. Weissman

Concerning the continuation of the functions of professional review committees, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

HB19-1292

Colorado Resiliency Office Reauthorization Funding

Reps. Singer & Galindo / Sen. Ginal

Concerning the reauthorization of the Colorado resiliency office, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-005

Import Prescription Drugs from Canada

Sens. Rodriguez & Ginal / Rep. Jaquez Lewis

Concerning wholesale importation of prescription pharmaceutical products from Canada for resale to Colorado residents, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-073

Statewide Systems of Advance Medical Directives

Sen. Ginal / Reps. Landgraf & Roberts

Concerning a statewide system of advance medical directives, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1131

Prescription Drug Cost Education

Rep. Jaquez Lewis / Sen. Winter

Concerning a requirement to share the wholesale acquisition cost of a drug when sharing information concerning the drug with another party.

HB19-1290

Examination Applicant Barber and Cosmetologists Act

Rep. Arndt / Sen. Priola

Concerning the substitution of foreign work experience for the required contact hours by an applicant for examination pursuant to the "Barber and Cosmetologist Act".

HB19-1291

Insurance Disclosures and Supervision

Rep. Arndt / Sens. Williams & Tate

Concerning the supervision of insurers, and, in connection therewith, establishing certain disclosure requirements for insurers.

HB19-1222

International Baccalaureate Exam Fee Grant

Reps. Kipp & McCluskie / Sen. Story

Concerning a grant program to reduce the amount of the international baccalaureate exam fee paid by students.

SB19-195

Children and Youth Behavioral Health System Enhancements

Sens. Fields & Gardner / Reps. Froelich & Landgraf

Concerning enhancements to behavioral health services and policy coordination for children and youth, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1320

Hospital Community Benefit Accountability

Reps. Kennedy & Lontine / Sen. Winter

Concerning requiring certain health care providers to be accountable to their communities.

HB19-1301

Health Insurance for Breast Imaging

Reps. Michaelson Jenet & Buckner / Sen. Williams

Concerning health insurance coverage for breast imaging.

HB19-1302

Cancer Treatment and License Plate Surcharge

Reps. Michaelson Jenet & Buckner / Sen. Winter

Concerning the continuation of the breast and cervical cancer prevention and treatment program, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1233

Investments in Primary Care to Reduce Health Costs

Reps. Froelich & Caraveo / Sens. Ginal & Moreno

Concerning payment system reforms to reduce health care costs by increasing utilization of primary care, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1122

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Maternal Mortality Review Committee

Reps. Buckner & Landgraf / Sens. Fields & Gardner

Concerning the creation of a maternal mortality review committee in the department of public health and environment, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1269

Mental Health Parity Insurance Medicaid

Reps. Cutter & Sullivan / Sens. Ginal & Gardner

Concerning measures to improve behavioral health care coverage practices, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1120

Youth Mental Health Education and Suicide Prevention

Reps. Michaelson Jenet & Roberts / Sens. Fenberg & Coram

Concerning multiple approaches to prevent youth suicide, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1267

Penalties For Failure To Pay Wages

Reps. Singer & Froelich / Sens. Danielson & Rodriguez

Concerning criminal offenses for failure to pay wages, and, in connection therewith, implementing recommendations from the Colorado human trafficking council.

Gov. Polis signed bills into law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Jared Polis signed the following bills into law yesterday.

HB19-1174

Out-of-Network Health Care Services

Reps. Esgar & Catlin / Sens. Gardner & Pettersen

Concerning out-of-network health care services provided to covered persons, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-174

Dependent Tuition Assistance Program Eligibility

Sens. Garcia & Hill / Reps. Buentello & Neville

Concerning tuition assistance eligibility for dependent children of certain persons, and, in connection therewith, determining eligibility for dependents of prisoners of war, military personnel missing in action, National Guardsmen, law enforcement officers, and firefighters.

SB19-001

Expand Medication-assisted Treatment Pilot Program

Sen. Garcia / Rep Buentello

Concerning the expansion of the medication-assisted treatment expansion pilot program, and, in connection therewith, shifting administration of the program from the college of nursing to the center for research into substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery support strategies; expanding the counties that may participate in the program; extending the duration of the program; increasing the funding for the program; and making an appropriation.

SB19-065

Peer Assistance Emergency Medical Service Provider

Sen. Garcia / Rep. Exum

Concerning the creation of a peer health assistance program for emergency medical service providers, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1287

Treatment For Opioids And Substance Use Disorders

Reps. Esgar & Wilson / Sens. Pettersen & Priola

Concerning methods to increase access to treatment for behavioral health disorders, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1326

Rates For Senior Low-income Dental Program

Reps. Esgar & Hansen / Sens. Zenzinger & Rankin

Concerning rate flexibility on existing procedures in the Colorado dental health care program for low-income seniors.

HB19-1132

School Incentives To Use Colorado Food And Producers

Reps. Buentello & Pelton / Sens. Coram & Bridges

Concerning Colorado food products in schools, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1147

Revise Traumatic Brain Injury Program

Reps. Snyder & Lee / Sen. Crowder

Concerning revisions to the traumatic brain injury program, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1013

Child Care Expenses Tax Credit Low-income Families

Rep. Exum / Sen. Pettersen

Concerning the extension of the income tax credit for child care expenses paid by a resident individual with a federal adjusted gross income of twenty-five thousand dollars or less.

SB19-176

Expanding Concurrent Enrollment Opportunities

Sens. Lundeen & Bridges / Reps. McCluskie & Geitner

Concerning measures to expand opportunities for students to earn postsecondary course credit while enrolled in high school, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-064

Retain Criminal Justice Programs Funding

Sen. Lee & Rep. Weissman

Concerning retention of criminal justice programs funding.

Gov. Polis signs bills into law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 13, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Jared Polis signed the following bills into law.

SB19-154

Sunset License Regulate Psychiatric Technicians

Sens. Court & Fields/ Rep. Sirota

Concerning the continuation of the regulation of psychiatric technicians by the state board of nursing, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2018 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

HB19-1254

Notice Requirements Employees Sharing Gratuities

Reps. McLachlan & Van Winkle/ Sens. Fields & Priola

Concerning the notice requirements of employers with regard to the sharing of gratuities.

HB19-1268

Assisted Living Residence Referral Disclosures

Reps. Singer & Van Winkle/ Sens. Todd & Hisey

Concerning a requirement that a referral agency make disclosures to a prospective resident of an assisted living residence.

SB19-086

Update Business Entity Laws

Sen. Lee/ Rep. Bird

Concerning updates to the laws governing business entities, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1211

Prior Authorization Requirements Health Care Service

Reps. Michaelson Jenet & Caraveo/ Sen. Williams

Concerning prior authorization requests submitted by providers for a determination of coverage of health care services under a health benefit plan.

SB19-168

Rule Review Bill

Sens. Lee & Gardner/ Reps. Weissman & Herod

Concerning implementation of recommendations of the committee on legal services in connection with legislative review of rules of state agencies.

SB19-094

Extend School Finance Interim Committee

Sens. Lundeen & Garnett/ Reps. Garnett & Buckner

Concerning the legislative interim committee on school finance.

HB19-1194

School Discipline For Preschool Through Second Grade

Reps. Lontine & Larson/ Sens. Priola & Fields

Concerning the discipline of preschool through second grade students enrolled in publicly funded education programs.

HB19-1187

Increase Student Aid Application Completion Rates

Rep. Coleman/ Sen. Bridges

Concerning increasing completion rates of applications for student financial aid for higher education, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1196

Financial Aid For Students With In-state Tuition

Rep. Gonzales-Gutierrez/Sen. Moreno

Concerning student financial assistance for students who are classified as in-state students for tuition purposes.

HB19-1280

Child College Savings Accounts

Reps. Herod & Buckner/Sen. Fenberg

Concerning the creation of the college kickstarter account program to incentivize the creation of a college savings account for every child born in Colorado.

HB19-1005

Income Tax Credit For Early Childhood Educators
Reps. Buckner & Wilson/ Sens. Todd & Priola
Concerning giving consumers notice of cell-cultured meat products.

SB19-002

Regulate Student Education Loan Servicers
Sens. Winter & Fenberg/ Reps. Roberts & Jackson
Concerning the regulation of student education loan servicers, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

Gov. Polis signs bills into law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, May 10, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Jared Polis signed the following bills into law.

HB19-1171

Expand Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Act
Rep. Michaelson-Jenet/ Sens. Fields and Priola
Concerning expanding the grades eligible for the child nutrition school lunch protection program, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-010

Professional Behavioral Health Services For Schools
Sen. Fields / Reps. McLachlan and A. Valdez
Concerning professional behavioral health services for schools, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

HB19-1017

Kindergarten Through Fifth Grade Social And Emotional Health Act
Rep. Michaelson- Jenet/ Sen. Fields
Concerning increasing access to school social workers in public elementary schools, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-059

Automatic Enrollment In Advanced Course Grant Program
Sen. Moreno / Rep. Buckner
Concerning creating the crime of unlawful electronic sexual communication.

SB19-246

Public School Finance
Sens. Todd and Lundeen / Reps. McLachlan and Wilson
Concerning the financing of public schools, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-216

High School Innovative Learning Pilot
Sen. Bridges / Rep. Bird
Concerning incentives for local education providers to provide innovative learning opportunities for high school students, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-137

Extend Colorado Student Leaders Institute

Sens. Todd & Crowder / Reps. Hansen and Wilson

Concerning the extension of the Colorado student leaders institute, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SB19-190

Teacher Preparation Program Support

Sens. Todd and Rankin / Reps. McLachlan and Wilson

Concerning measures to increase the number of individuals who are well-prepared to teach in public schools, and, in connection therewith, creating the "Growing Great Teachers Act" and making an appropriation.

SB19-199

READ Act Implementation Measures

Sens. Todd and Rankin / Reps. McCluskie and Wilson

Concerning protections for minor human trafficking victims, and, in connection therewith, requiring a post-enactment review of the implementation of this act.

Gov. Polis orders flags lowered to honor victims of the school shooting in Highlands Ranch

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

DENVER — Gov. Jared Polis today ordered all flags lowered to half-staff on all state buildings and properties to honor victims of the shooting at the STEM School in Highlands Ranch. Flags should be lowered immediately until sunset on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Gov. Polis' statement on shooting at STEM School Highlands Ranch

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Polis' statement on shooting at the STEM School Highlands Ranch:

"We are making all of our public safety resources available to assist the Douglas County Sheriff's Department in their effort to secure the site and evacuate the students. We are monitoring the situation in real time. The heart of all Colorado is with the victims and their families."

For Parents: STEM Students can be picked up at Northridge Recreation Center at 8800 S Broadway, Highlands Ranch, CO.

For the Media: Please contact the Douglas County Sheriff's Public Information Officer Deputy Cocha Heyden for more information.

Cell: 303-435-4580

On Call PIO: 720.770.0178

Email: pio@dcsheriff.net

Gov. Polis, House and Senate leadership celebrate the 2019 legislative session where they delivered real results for Colorado families

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 6, 2019

DENVER —Governor Polis, Senate President Leroy Garcia, Speaker KC Becker and a number of stakeholders gathered together to celebrate the accomplishments of the 2019 legislative session.

“This session was truly incredible for the people of Colorado,” said Governor Jared Polis. “We took significant steps toward lowering health care costs for Coloradans, improving our education system including saving families money on kindergarten, and protecting our Colorado way of life. I’m proud to say that through collaboration and dedication, we are delivering real results for all Coloradans. I look forward to implementing this legislation and continue working to make our state a place where everyone can thrive.”

Education - Investing in Colorado’s Future

- Free, Full-Day Kindergarten will be available for families by Fall of 2019.
- There will be an additional 5,100 preschool slots, the biggest expansion of early childhood in the state’s history.
- Public colleges and universities will keep tuition flat for the coming year.
- The 9th Grade success program will help improve high school graduation rates.
- There will be a \$2.3 million investment in concurrent enrollment, allowing more high school students to earn college credit.

Health Care - Lowering Costs for Coloradans

- Establish a reinsurance pool to reduce premiums
- Increase hospital price transparency
- Negotiate to drive down the cost of health insurance
- Lower the cost of prescription drugs
- Reduce out-of-pocket costs
- New investments in primary care, mental health and substance abuse

Boldly Forward - Protecting our Colorado Way of Life

- Equal Pay for Equal Work
- Bold Climate Action and Pathway to 100 percent Renewable Energy
- Investments in Affordable Housing
- 35 percent increase in Transportation funding

Gov. Polis signs bills into law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 3, 2019

DENVER— Gov. Jared Polis signed the following bills into law.

SB19-213

Marijuana Cash Fund Transfer

Sen. Rankin / Rep. Ransom

Concerning transfers from the marijuana cash fund to the marijuana tax cash fund.

SB19-208

State Employee Reserve Fund Transfer

Sen. Moreno / Rep. Esgar

Concerning a transfer of money from the state employee reserve fund to the general fund.

SB19-214

Capital-related Transfers Of Money

Sen. Rankin / Reps. Esgar & Ransom

Concerning capital-related transfers of money.

HB19-1149

Age Of Delinquency Study

Rep. Gonzales-Gutierrez / Sen. Lee

Concerning directing the age of delinquency task force of the Colorado commission on criminal and juvenile justice to study serving emerging adults in the juvenile justice system.

Gov. Polis' statement on end of the 2019 legislative session

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 3, 2019

DENVER —Governor Polis released the following statement on the end of the General Assembly's 2019 legislative session.

"Congratulations to the 72nd General Assembly on a successful legislative session. Due to the hard work, dedication, and collaborative effort by lawmakers, we are delivering real results — most of them bipartisan — for our state and enacting the agenda that Coloradans overwhelmingly voted for six months ago. This fall, Colorado families will have access to free, full-day kindergarten, we are lowering the cost of health care, and making significant progress on many other issues that will improve our Colorado way of life."

Governor Polis joins First Gentleman Reis and Lt. Governor Primavera to announce the People for Animal Welfare Committee

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

DENVER —To commemorate Animal Welfare Day, Governor Jared Polis joined First Gentleman Marlon Reis and Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera to announce the People for Animal Welfare (PAW) Committee. The Governor also signed HB 19-1092, Animal Ban For Cruelty To Animals Conviction and HB 19-1220, Court Facility Dog During Witness Testimony.

"We are thrilled to announce the PAW Committee today," said Governor Jared Polis. "This is an opportunity to look at what Colorado can do to protect our animals from cruelty and ensure their wellbeing."

The PAW Committee will play an advisory role on the state of issues related to animal welfare and animal protection in Colorado.

"This Committee is about protecting Colorado animals and giving them a voice," said First Gentleman Reis. "There is so much great work happening in our state around animal welfare and the PAW Committee is an opportunity to bring together experts on these issues and make Colorado a national leader."

"This Committee is made up of a variety of animal welfare experts," said Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera. "Their input will be critical to making Colorado a top state in protecting animals of all kinds."

To foster a healthy debate and ensure that the widest possible range of Coloradans have a voice on the PAW Committee, its membership will comprise 14 stakeholders including veterinarians, conservationists, attorneys, representatives of the animal control sector, and senior animal shelter staff. These members have been selected in careful consultation with animal welfare professionals, and following a series of three "summit-style" meetings allowing prospective members to discuss the most pressing problems facing animals in Colorado.

Members of the committee include:

- Dr. Marc Bekoff, PhD - Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, CU-Boulder
- Dr. Apryl Steele, DVM - President, Denver Dumb Friends League

- Justin Marceau, JD - Animal Legal Defense Fund Professor, University of Denver
- Alice Nightengale - Director, Denver Animal Protection
- Dr. E'lise Christensen, DVM, DACDV - Veterinarian, Behavior Vets Colorado
- Dr. Leslie Irvine, PhD - Professor, Arts and Sciences Council, CU-Boulder
- Katie Parker - Executive Director, Animal Assistance Foundation
- Phil Tedeschi, LCSW - Director, Institute of the Human-Animal Connection, University of Denver
- Dr. Jon Geller, DVM - Executive Director, The Street Dog Coalition
- Dr. Carolyn Karrh - Executive Director, Peace, Love and Paws
- Janee Boswell - Animal Control Supervisor, Boulder Police
- Judy Calhoun, CFRE, CAWA - CEO, Larimer Humane Society
- Anna Stout - Executive Director, Roice-Hurst Humane Society
- Diane Balkin, JD - Senior Staff Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund

Governor Polis and Secretary of State Griswold announce March 3rd, 2020 as Colorado's new presidential primary date

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

DENVER —Today Governor Jared Polis and Secretary of State Jena Griswold announced March 3rd, 2020 as the new date for Colorado's presidential primary. The two were joined by leaders from the Democratic, Republican, Unity American Constitution and Approval Voting parties.

"Our Super Tuesday primaries will be a tremendous opportunity to participate in democracy and for Coloradans to have their voices heard by presidential candidates in all parties," said Governor Jared Polis. "We are proud of 2018's record turnout, as well as Colorado's status as a leader on voting rights. We hope to build on that momentum by participating in a primary along with other Super Tuesday states to ensure that all major candidates listen firsthand to the concerns of Colorado voters."

In 2016, Colorado voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 107, which restored primary elections in Colorado in presidential election years. The state was previously using the caucus system.

"I am excited to join Governor Polis in officially setting March 3, 2020 -- Super Tuesday -- as the date for Colorado's 2020 presidential primary. This will be the first presidential primary in Colorado in 20 years -- and the first where unaffiliated voters will be able to participate," said Secretary of State Jena Griswold. "As Colorado's Secretary of State, I believe in the power of our democracy. A secure and accessible presidential primary will give Coloradans the opportunity to create the future we imagine."

Important Dates

Session Convenes: Jan. 8, 2019