

SB 11-25 Colorado Taxpayer Empowerment Act

Sponsors: Sen. Carroll, Rep. Ferrandino

League of Women Voters Supports SB 25

The public has a fundamental right to know how its scarce tax dollars are spent. Just as the state makes available information about the services state employees provide, there should also be more oversight of services provided by private-sector employees who work for the state as contractors.

Added accountability and transparency in the operations of state government will help citizens better understand the work of their state government. This is not new. Over the last two years, several measures have been enacted to increase transparency in the state's own records. These have been sponsored by members of both parties.

What the bill does

- Requires contractors who work for the state to make available records relating to the costs of any performance measures of the contract.
- The executive branch, General Assembly oversight committees, and the minority and majority leaders in both houses would be able to request records.
- Exempts records that are not subject to the Colorado Open Records Act from inspection.

Why the bill is important

- Increases accountability for how state tax dollars are spent on providing services.
- Enhances transparency by allowing the public to gain a better understanding of how private companies perform work.
- State agencies are already required to track performance on programs operated directly by state employees.
- Would provide the same oversight of private contractors who provide services on behalf of the state with state taxpayer money.
- Coloradans demand accountability and transparency in how their tax dollars are spent regardless of who does the work.
- State decision-makers need to ensure tax dollars provide the best value and quality for the provision of state services.

Protects proprietary information

- Records that are exempt from the Colorado Open Records Act are exempt from this bill.
- A contractor is simply reporting the costs of performance measures under their state contract. Contractors are not required to disclose details of their other work.

Transparency is good policy.