

LEGISLATIVE LETTER®

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

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March 29, 2010

LL#6:48

## K-12 EDUCATION TAKES A 6.35% HIT

In this year of unprecedented constraints on the state budget, no area of state activity has survived without serious reductions from what would have been expected levels of funding for 2010-11. However, K-12 Education has been dealt multiple blows in the last 15 months. In January, 2009, and again in January, 2010, the state rescinded a portion of the funds which had been allocated to each school district during the prior legislative session. **HB 1369 Financing of Public Schools (Reps. Scanlan and Pommer; Sen. Bacon) (oppose)**, introduced on Mar. 17, creates another major reduction in state funding for K-12 Education (for all public schools including institute charter schools). The bill calls for the state's contribution to K-12 funding to be reduced by \$260 million from the original appropriation made for FY 2009-10. According to three fiscal notes (prepared by Legislative Council Staff), the decrease for 2010-11 “. . . translates to a reduction of \$365.4 million, or 6.35 percent of total program . . .” when compared to expected funding. The mechanism for implementing this reduction is referred to in the bill as “a state budget stabilization factor.”

An immediate question comes to mind: “How can this sizable reduction be in compliance with Amendment 23?” Amendment 23 calls for K-12 funding to be increased by the rate of inflation plus 1% through 2010-11 and by the rate of inflation thereafter. Although hard to believe, the inflation rate was calculated to be -0.6%. Adding in the additional 1% required by Amendment 23 would yield an increase in state funding of 0.4% – not very large but much different from the reductions noted in the preceding paragraph. The Amendment 23 spending increases have usually been interpreted as applying to all state support to k-12 education to school districts. There are three types of state support: per pupil spending; categorical programs (such as Special Education, Vocational education, and others), and “adjustment factors,” which refer to additional assistance to districts that have high numbers of at-risk students or other high-cost conditions. However, the Governor and Legislature have chosen to interpret Amendment 23 as applying only to categorical programs and to per pupil allotment and not to the “adjustment factors.” These factors account for between \$1.3 and \$1.5 billion in current K-12 funding and, if not subject to Amendment 23 increases, provide opportunity for considerable cost savings even to the point of actual reductions in state spending.

HB 1369 applies the required 0.4% increment to the per pupil allotment for last year (\$5,507.68) to yield an increase of \$22.03, setting the base per pupil funding at \$5,529.71 for 2010-11. The Long Bill will include a .04% increase for the categorical programs. The “adjustment factors” will be cut. In the last recession, the Amendment 23 increase was not applied to one of the “adjustment factors.

More than a few tears were shed at the hearing by House Ed on Mar. 18 when Committee members and the audience realized that severe cuts were inevitable. There are many ways that the cuts can be implemented, but virtually all of them involve cutting people: administrators, support staff (bus drivers, custodial staff), and teachers. The results will inevitably be larger class size, fewer courses beyond those required to prepare for state tests, possibility of 4 day school weeks ... An adjustment needed to be made where the reduction in state support is more than the total amount the state provides to a particular district. In these cases, the additional reduction is to come from a temporary decrease in property tax revenues associated with an override vote for that district (i.e., voters in that district had voted to increase their property taxes over the amount identified at the time of school equalization legislation). It was felt that this was the best way to meet the constitutional requirements for “fair and equitable” (all districts have a similar percent reduction) and not involve a mill levy decrease which would invoke TABOR restrictions regarding future recovery

After unanimous passage by both House Education and Appropriations Committees, the full House amended the bill to carry the stabilization factor forward to the 2011-12 budget year. But an amendment to remove three more tax exemptions (similar to the 12 that had been proposed in Jan.), which would provide additional revenue, was defeated. Rep. Peniston read an apology to all public school students; to all members of the teaching profession; to all school boards and administrators; and finally to her grandkids for not providing the kind of education they deserve. Rep. Todd commented that the legislature had spent days debating the removal of \$140 million in tax credits distributed across several business interests but were about to pass devastating cuts to K-12 education with hardly any debate. HB 1369 passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and then, on Mar. 22, passed 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on a 48 to 17 vote. The No votes came from eight Republicans and nine Democrats.

HB 1369 was heard by Senate Ed on Mar. 25. There was considerable discussion about the requirement for seven districts (those that receive less than 6.35% of their total program funding from the state) to give up a portion of their revenues coming from mill levy override votes in their districts. League shares that concern.

Our opposition to the cuts that are this bill come from the principle that there should be enough revenue to adequately fund state programs. We recognize and appreciate the hard choices the bill represents.

Catherine Felknor 303.494.7199

House Vote

YES	48	NO	17	EXCUSED	0	ABSENT	0
Acree	N	Gerou	Y	McFadyen	Y	Ryden	Y
Apuan	N	Hullinghorst	Y	McKinley	N	Scanlan	Y
Balmer	Y	Judd	Y	McNulty	Y	Schafer S.	Y
Baumgardner	N	Kagan	Y	Merrifield	N	Solano	N
Benefield	Y	Kefalas	Y	Middleton	Y	Sonnenberg	Y
Bradford	N	Kerr A.	Y	Miklosi	Y	Soper	Y
Casso	N	Kerr J.	Y	Murray	Y	Stephens	Y
Court	Y	King S.	Y	Nikkel	Y	Summers	N
Curry	Y	Labuda	Y	Pace	Y	Swalm	Y
DelGrosso	Y	Lambert	Y	Peniston	N	Tipton	N
Ferrandino	Y	Levy	Y	Pommer	Y	Todd	N
Fischer	Y	Liston	N	Primavera	N	Tyler	Y
Frangas	N	Looper	Y	Priola	N	Vaad	Y
Gagliardi	Y	Massey	Y	Rice	Y	Vigil	Y
Gardner B.	Y	May	Y	Riesberg	Y	Waller	Y
Gardner C.	N	McCann	Y	Roberts	Y	Weissmann	Y
						Speaker	Y

# GOVERNMENT

## TRANSPARENCY EXTENDED

**SB 114 Colorado Taxpayer Transparency Act of 2010 (Sen. M. Carroll; Rep. Weissmann) (support)** which is intended to make sure that records related to services the state contracts for from outside vendors are made transparent, passed out of House State Affairs Committee on March 25 unanimously. Senate amendments assured that information compromising the private business information of contracting businesses would still be confidential. The bill moves to the House floor. Previously reported LL#2, p. 12; LL#3, p. 32.

Christine Watson 303.250.1796

## LOBBYING BILL IMPROVED, PASSED

**SB 87 Secretary of State Authority to Regulate Lobbyists (Sen. Steadman; Rep. Liston) (support)** passed out of the Senate on a vote of 20-13 on March 16. As passed by the Senate, the bill contained the option for volunteer lobbyists to register with SOS (and comply with reporting, though without any sanctions for not doing so), or to register with the clerk. Also added was ethics language concerning misrepresentations or payment for success by any lobbyist. The behaviors that would be codified as against the law are, in fact, objectionable behaviors. The consequence can be loss of lobbying privileges.

The House State Affairs Committee heard the bill on March 25 and passed amendments that cleaned and clarified the bill. As amended, the bill will require volunteer lobbyists to register with the Secretary of State, through an online process designed for volunteer lobbyists. The bill exempts volunteer lobbyists from all other reporting requirements that are made of professional lobbyists. Volunteer lobbyists would be (and should be) subject to the ethics provisions. In addition, the penalties for professional lobbyists for not filing monthly reports promptly were changed to \$20 per day for the first ten days that the filing is late, and \$50 per day the-

reafter. The increased penalties were recommendations of an audit report, which found that existing penalties (\$10 per day for any late filing) were insufficient as a deterrent. The bill passed unanimously. It must pass through Appropriations before going to the floor.

With these final clarifications of volunteer lobbyist registration, we can fully support the bill.

Chris Watson 303.250.1796

### Senate Vote

YES	20	NO	13	EXCUSED	1	ABSENT	1
Bacon	Y	Hodge	Y	Morse	Y	Spence	N
Boyd	Y	Hudak	Y	Newell	Y	Steadman	Y
Brophy	N	Johnston	Y	Penry	N	Tapia	E
Cadman	N	Keller	Y	Renfroe	N	Tochtrop	Y
Carroll M.	Y	Kester	N	Romer	A	White	Y
Foster	Y	King K.	N	Sandoval	Y	Whitehead	Y
Gibbs	Y	Kopp	N	Scheffel	N	Williams	Y
Harvey	N	Lundberg	N	Schultheis	N	President	Y
Heath	Y	Mitchell	N	Schwartz	Y		

## ELECTIONS

### **NEW** OPENNESS IN BALLOT MEASURES

**HB 1370 Ballot Measure Disclosure Requirements (Rep. Court; Sen. Steadman)** requires the Secretary Of State (SOS) to notify statewide initiative proponents when their petition is approved that they must register an issue committee if 200 or more petition sections are printed or accepted for circulation.

It requires those submitting written comments to the Legislative Council in connection with drafting pros and cons for the blue book to provide their name and organization. Each measure in the analysis section of the blue book would direct readers to the SOS web site which would contain information on supporting or opposing issue committees.

It clarifies the definition of an "issue committee" as having its major purpose to support or oppose a ballot issue or question by specifically identifying this objective when the committee is established or by an established pattern of conduct based on annual expenditures to oppose or support the issue or in the production or funding of communications in support or opposition of an issue.

An issue committee spending over \$1000 on a communication to oppose or support a statewide ballot issue or question that is broadcast, printed, mailed, delivered or otherwise distributed is required to disclose in the communication the issue committee's name. This is to be clearly printed and conspicuous or spoken at the beginning or end of a radio broadcast or spoken or written in a televised broadcast.

The office of administrative courts may determine if an issue committee knowingly or intentionally failed to file a report according to the state's campaign finance laws. If so the judge shall direct the committee to file such report within 10 days and may impose a penalty of up to \$20 for each contribution or expenditure not reported.

The bill has been assigned to Senate State Affairs, and not calendared at this time.

Alice Ramsey 303.841.7839

## **FISCAL POLICY**

### **LEGISLATORS FEEL PAIN, TOO**

**SB 119 Payments to Members of the General Assembly (Sen. Shaffer; Rep. May) (oppose)** will delay an increase in the per diem expense reimbursement for members of the General Assembly who come from outside the Denver metropolitan area. The current rate of per diem expense reimbursement of \$150/day is scheduled to rise to about \$191/day on July 1. The bill delays the increase until 2012. Savings are estimated to be about \$238,000 per year. The savings is important in closing the budget gap for 2010-2011. Logic and fairness say that the General Assembly ought to share in that. However, costs to stay in Denver have risen over the years, while legislative salaries have remained the same (at \$30,000) for more than ten years, and the current out-of-Denver reimbursement rate was enacted only recently, also after being stagnant for many, many years. When serving the people begins to impose a financial cost on a member of the GA, other problems can occur. We would prefer that the people's elected representatives not find themselves unable to serve because of the high cost of living in Denver during the session.

The Senate passed the bill by a vote of 33-1-1, with Schultheis voting No and Romer excused. The House vote was 64-0-1, with Casso excused.

Christine Watson 303.250.1796

## **IMPROVED PLANNING, BUDGETING**

**HB 1119 SMART Government Act (Rep. Ferrandino; Sen. Shaffer) (support)** requires each state agency to present annually the department's strategic plan to the relevant committee of reference of the General Assembly and to post it on the department's web site. The bill was significantly amended in House Appropriations to include participation by local authorities, holding hearings outside of Denver for state-wide input, and considering the feasibility of an electronic budgeting system for the state. The electronic budgeting system is expected to be broad and have additional aspects of transparency to the public. Federal funds are expected to be available for the electronic budgeting project. Appropriations passed the bill unanimously to the floor, where it passed by a vote of 58-5-2. Voting no: J. Kerr, Liston, Looper, Nikkel, Swalm. Excused: Kagan, A. Kerr. It has been assigned to Senate Finance Committee. Previously reported LL#3, p. 19.

Christine Watson 303.250.1796

## **FIXING REGISTRATION FEES**

**HB 1212 Rules for Late Vehicle Registration Fees (Rep. Rice; Sen. Schwartz) (oppose)** This bill has been amended to allow vehicle late fees to be reduced or waived that would otherwise be due upon registration of a trailer that is a commercial or farm trailer that was idled and not operated on any public highway in the state during the period that it was not registered. Passed Third Reading in the Senate unanimously on 3/23/10 and was returned to the House for concurrence on Senate amendments.

**HB 1211 Reduced Late Vehicle Registration Penalty (Rep. Tyler; Sen. Williams) (oppose)** This bill reduces fees for vehicles weighing 2000 pounds or less. This bill was passed unanimously.

ly with amendments on 3/23/10 and was returned to the House for concurrence.

Both previously reported LL # 3, p. 21.

Phyllis Horney 303 771-6683

## **JUSTICE SYSTEM**

### **DRUG SENTENCING REFORM ADVANCES**

**HB 1352 Controlled Substance Crime Changes (Rep. Waller; Sens. Steadman and Mitchell) (Support).** The House Judiciary Committee unanimously referred the bill, with amendments, to House Appropriations Mar. 22.

Amendments included new sections defining offenses as a class 3 felony: "...selling, dispensing, or distributing a controlled substance other than marijuana or marijuana concentrate to a minor under eighteen years..." and also, "sale, transfer, or dispensing of five or more pounds of marijuana or one pound or more of marijuana concentrate to a person under eighteen, but at least fifteen."

Other new sections clarify the allocation of moneys to be deposited into the Drug Offender Surcharge Fund and that the fund will be used only to cover the costs associated with the treatment of substance abuse or co-concurring disorders of offenders assessed in need of treatment.

Of interest in the fiscal note are the operating costs for state correctional facilities: \$88.60 per bed per day or \$32,339 per bed per year. The state pays \$61.19 per day for inmates' places in private prisons. The bill applies to class 3 through class 6 felonies.

Due to the reduction in penalties for the various offenses in the bill, fewer inmates will be sentenced to the DOC and those sentenced will have a shorter stay. It is estimated the bill will result in a General Fund savings of \$1,523,010 in FY 2010-11 and \$6,346,807 in FY 2011-12 across various departments.

Previously reported LL#4, p. 32.

Marilyn Shuey 303-863-0437

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **WATER EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM**

**SB 25, Funding Water Efficiency Grants (Sen. Whitehead and Rep. Baumgardner) (support)** has made it through both Houses. This bill extends the existing program to July 1, 2020 and authorizes up to \$550,000 of the annual appropriations from the tier 2 of the operational account of the severance tax fund to the water efficiency grant program.

It passed 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in the House 63-0 (Scanlon and Vaad excused) on March 25.

Previously reported LL#2, p. 15.

### **NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY REGARDING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS**

**NEW Rep. McFadyen, Sen. Kester and Bacon have introduced HB 1348, Increased Regulatory Authority on Radioactive Materials (support)** It would require uranium mills and processing facilities licensed for disposal of radioactive waste originating outside of Colorado that have caused a release to groundwater exceeding standards to submit an annual report to the owners of wells located within a mile of the contaminated groundwater. It would also require an annual report to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regarding the adequacy of the facilities' financial assurance warranties. It would also modify the procedural requirements that a uranium processing and disposal facility must meet for license application, renewals and amendments. This bill was heard in House Transportation and Energy Committee and had amendments addressing in situ uranium mining added to the bill. The bill is in accordance with the League principles of being a good steward of the land and for protection of groundwater, a finite resource. It passed out of the committee unanimously on March 18, and is on the House floor.

Both bills reported by Jeannette Hillery 303-494-7718

## **ENERGY**

### **TRANSPARENCY IN REA GOVERNANCE**

**HB 1098 REA Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors (Rep. Levy, Sen. Hodge) (Support)** will establish statutory practices for the election of the REAs' boards of directors, board meetings and conflicts of interest. The bill was amended in the House to better adapt the requirements to REA administrative practices while still meeting the intent of the legislation. HB 1098 passed third reading in the House on March 8 on a vote of 34 yes and 28 no.

In the Senate, the bill was assigned to the Local Government and Energy Committee where it passed on a 7 - 0 vote on March 23. It is scheduled for Second Reading in the Senate on Monday, March 29.

Previously reported LL#4, p. 33.

Sigrid Higdon 303.233.8111

#### House Vote

	YES	34	NO	28	EXCUSED	3	ABSENT	0
Acree	N		Gerou	N	McFadyen	Y	Ryden	Y
Apuan	Y		Hullinghorst	Y	McKinley	N	Scanlan	Y
Balmer	N		Judd	Y	McNulty	N	Schafer S.	Y
Baumgardner	N		Kagan	Y	Merrifield	Y	Solano	Y
Benefield	Y		Kefalas	Y	Middleton	Y	Sonnenberg	N
Bradford	E		Kerr A.	Y	Miklosi	Y	Soper	N
Casso	N		Kerr J.	N	Murray	N	Stephens	N
Court	Y		King S.	E	Nikkel	N	Summers	N
Curry	N		Labuda	Y	Pace	Y	Swalm	N
DelGrosso	N		Lambert	N	Peniston	Y	Tipton	N
Ferrandino	Y		Levy	Y	Pommer	Y	Todd	Y
Fischer	Y		Liston	N	Primavera	Y	Tyler	Y
Frangas	Y		Looper	N	Priola	Y	Vaad	N
Gagliardi	Y		Massey	N	Rice	Y	Vigil	N
Gardner B.	N		May	N	Riesberg	Y	Waller	N
Gardner C.	E		McCann	Y	Roberts	N	Weissmann	Y
							Speaker	Y

### **CLEANING UP COLORADO'S AIR**

**NEW HB 1365 Incentives for Utilities to Convert from Coal to Natural Gas (Rep. Solano; Roberts; Sen. Whitehead; Penry) (support)** is a bipartisan effort that anticipates emission requirements of the federal Clean Air Act. The bill requires Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) that own or operate coal-fired electric generating plants to submit an emissions reduction plan for those units. The plan to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will be due by August 15, 2010, and is required to cover 900 megawatts or 50% of the IOU's generating ca-

capacity whichever is less. The plan must give primary consideration to the conversion of the unit to natural gas or other low-emission resources. The PUC will provide the Department of Public Health and Environment with an opportunity to comment on the plan and will evaluate the plan considering several factors including the emissions reductions achieved and any potential rate impacts. The PUC must complete its review of the plan by December 15, 2010. Plans must be fully implemented by December 31, 2017.

Although no specific plants are identified in the bill, news reports suggest that three northern Front Range power plants will be targeted because that is the area most in need of pollution reduction.

The bill moved quickly through the House, passing 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading on March 22, and after being amended in Senate Agriculture, is now awaiting 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading in the Senate.

Sigrid Higdon 303.233.8111

#### House Vote

	YES	53	NO	12	EXCUSED	0	ABSENT	0
Acree	Y		Gerou	Y	McFadyen	Y	Ryden	Y
Apuan	N		Hullinghorst	Y	McKinley	Y	Scanlan	Y
Balmer	Y		Judd	Y	McNulty	Y	Schafer S.	Y
Baumgardner	N		Kagan	Y	Merrifield	Y	Solano	Y
Benefield	Y		Kefalas	Y	Middleton	Y	Sonnenberg	Y
Bradford	Y		Kerr A.	Y	Miklosi	Y	Soper	N
Casso	Y		Kerr J.	Y	Murray	N	Stephens	Y
Court	Y		King S.	Y	Nikkel	Y	Summers	Y
Curry	N		Labuda	Y	Pace	Y	Swalm	N
DelGrosso	N		Lambert	N	Peniston	Y	Tipton	N
Ferrandino	Y		Levy	Y	Pommer	Y	Todd	Y
Fischer	Y		Liston	Y	Primavera	Y	Tyler	Y
Frangas	Y		Looper	N	Priola	Y	Vaad	Y
Gagliardi	Y		Massey	Y	Rice	Y	Vigil	Y
Gardner B.	N		May	Y	Riesberg	Y	Waller	N
Gardner C.	Y		McCann	Y	Roberts	Y	Weissmann	Y
							Speaker	Y

### **ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF SMART GRID FOR COLORADO**

**NEW SB 180 Colorado Smart Grid Task Force (Sen. Williams, Rep. Kerr) (Support)** creates a 9 member task force to produce a report containing recommendations and analysis on the feasibility, cost, and timing of transition to a secure, resilient, and technologically advanced electrical grid. The report to the Public Utility Commission and the Legislature is due January 1, 2011. Funding is expected to come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AR-

RA) dollars designated for the Governor's Energy Office.

The bill passed the Senate Local Government and Energy Committee on a unanimous vote and will next be heard in Appropriations.

Sigrid Higdon 303.233.8111

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

### **CHILDREN'S ISSUES**

#### **CHILD WELFARE PILOT PROGRAM GOES TO GOVERNOR**

**HB 1226 Differential Response to Child Abuse (Rep. Kefalas; Sen. Spence) (support)** passed unanimously out of Senate Health and Human Services on March 18. It passed Third Reading on March 26. The vote was 33-1-1 with Sen. Schulteis voting No and Sen. Keller excused. The bill will allow five pilot counties to use a less adversarial approach in response to reports of abuse and neglect. This approach may only be used if the level of risk to the child/children is determined to be low or moderate. Previously reported LL #4, p. 34.

Carla Bennett 303.757.2930

#### **CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN BILL MOVES FORWARD**

On March 19, **SB 171 Create Child Protection Ombudsman Prog (Sen. Newell; Rep. Galliardi) (support)** passed out of Senate Appropriations to the Committee of the Whole where it awaits 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. The vote was 6 to 4. Voting YES: Sen. Bacon, Heath, Hodge, Keller, Romer, and Tapia. Voting NO: Sen. Harvey, K. King, Kopp, and White. Previously reported LL#5, p. 42.

Roberta Long-Twyman 303.377.9193  
Carla Bennett 303.757.2930

#### **AFTER A DELAY, OFFICE OF CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE MOVING ALONG**

**SB 43 Extend Repeal Office Child Rep (Sen. White; Rep. Pommer) (support)** continues the Office of the Child's Representative. It was finally heard in House Judiciary on March 25. It passed out of the committee by a unanimous vote with Rep. McCann excused. It now awaits 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Previously reported LL # 1, p. 7; LL # 2, p. 15.

Carla Bennett 303.757.2930

#### **CHILD PROTECTION CHANGE OF VENUE BILL MOVING QUICKLY**

**NEW HB 1359 Change of Venue Dependency and Neglect (Rep. McCann; Sen. Steadman) (watch)** was introduced by Rep. McCann and Sen. Steadman on the recommendation of the Governor's Child Welfare Action Committee. The bill places into law the procedures to be followed by the courts in a change of venue when a family moves from one county to another. This will result in consistency across the state in terms of changes in venue.

The bill assumes that when the court changes venue, the county department will transfer the case to the county in which the family resides. Procedures for the transfer are outlined and deadlines for the transfer are imposed. A position in each county department is created to coordinate the transfer.

The bill passed out of the House Human Services Committee unanimously and is scheduled in the Committee of the Whole on April 1.

Roberta Long-Twyman 303-377-9193

## **EDUCATION**

### **MORE DELETIONS IN CATEGORICAL ED BILL**

After being introduced in the House on Mar. 10, **SB 62 Categorical Ed Programs (Sen. Steadman; Rep. Peniston) (Watch)** was heard by House Ed on Mar. 22. Amendments approved by the Committee deleted all changes related to the CO Comprehensive Health Education Fund (i.e., Sections 1-3 and Section 18). The vote was 10-0 (with three excused) to send SB 62 as amended to the House floor for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, where it has been laid over until Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Previously reported LL#5, p. 38.

Catherine Felknor 303.494.7199

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **RESOLVED WITHOUT A LAW!**

**SB 26 Duties of College In Colorado (Sen. Romer and Rep. Middleton) (Support)** The bill was heard in the House Education Committee on March 22 where the sponsor justified in committee that the issue the bill was seeking to resolve was addressed by the Executive Director of the Department of Higher Education and the legislation was no longer necessary. Postponed indefinitely by a vote of 11-yes, 0-no, and 2- excused.

Previously reported: LL #5, p. 43.

### **MOVING FORWARD QUICKLY**

**HB 1208 Higher Ed Statewide Transfer Agreements (Reps. Todd & Murray, et. al., and Sens. Shaffer and King, et. al.) (Support)**

This bill would create a total of 14 statewide transfer agreements for students who complete an associate's degree at community colleges to Colorado institutions of higher education. On March 11 the bill was heard in the Senate Educa-

tion Committee and passed by a vote of 8-yes and 0-no. It was laid over on Second Reading in the Senate on March 23 until April 5, 2010.

Previously reported: LL#4, p. 35.

Both reported by Barbara Whinery 970-353-6731

## **HEALTH CARE**

### **HEALTH INSURANCE BILLS ADVANCE**

**SB 020 CoverColorado Financial Viability (Sen. Boyd; Rep. Massey) (support)**

The bill passed out of the Senate Health & Human Services committee amended on a 7-0 vote. This bill imposes fees and changes fee schedules as means to ensure the viability of CoverColorado. It passed 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in the Senate on a vote of 29-4-1-1. Voting no: Brophy, Cadman, Renfroe, Schultheis. Excused: Tapia. Absent: Romer. It now awaits hearing in House Health and Human Services Committee.

Previously reported LL #2, pg 16

**HB 1008 No Gender Individual health Insurance Rates (Rep. S. Schafer, Rep. McCann; Sen. Carroll, Sen. Schwartz) (support)** This bill applies to the individual insurance market and declares any health insurance premium based on the gender of the insured to be discriminatory.

The House approved the bill by a vote of 59-2-4. Voting no: Lambert, Swalm. Excused: Levy, McFadyen, Rice, Weissmann. Senate approved the bill on a vote of 20-13-1-1 and it has been sent to the governor for signature.

Previously reported LL#2, p. 16.

Both reported by Marion Colliander 303-322-3926

## STATUS SHEET

The Status Sheet is a constantly updated list of bills being followed by Legislative Action Committee members.

New bills are in **boldface**.

S=Support O=Oppose SIP=Support in Part OIP=Oppose in Part W=Watch or Monitor

POLICY AREA	S/H	BILL #	BILL TITLE	S/O	PAGE	STATUS
Children's Issues	HB	1106	Child Welfare Adoption Multiethnic Act	S	24, 42	S-APP
Children's Issues	HB	1226	Differential Response to Child Abuse	S	34,54	To Gov
<b>Children's Issues</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>Change Of Venue Dependency and Neglect</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>H-2nd Rdg</b>
Children's Issues	SB	43	Extend Repeal Office Child Rep	S	7,15,54	H-2nd Rdg
Children's Issues	SB	171	Create Child Protection Ombudsman Prog	S	42,54	S-2nd Rdg
Children's Issues	SB	66	Reporting of Child Abuse or Neglect	S	24	H-2nd Rdg
Education	HB	1015	Stable Funding For Small Districts	W	24	PI
Education	HB	1171	Repeal of School Reporting Requirements	S	24	S-2nd Rdg
Education	HB	1208	Higher Ed Statewide Transfer Agreements	S	35,55	S-2nd Rdg
Education	HB	1343	Charter Schools Governance Standards	W	34	H-ED
Education	HB	1344	Authorizing Standards Charter Schools	W	34	H-ED
Education	HB	1345	Emergency Powers Over Charter Schools	W	34	H-ED
<b>Education</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1369</b>	<b>Financing of Public Schools</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>S-APP</b>
Education	SB	3	Higher Education Flexibility	S	16	S-ED
Education	SB	26	Duties Of College In Colorado	S	43,55	PI
Education	SB	36	Program Results For Educator Preparation	S	7	Signed
Education	SB	62	Categorical Ed Programs	W	38,55	H-2nd Rdg
Education	SB	161	Charter School Collaboratives	O	35	S-ED
Elections	HB	1100	Withdrawal Of Initiative Petitions	OIP	13	PI
Elections	HB	1116	Revision To Colorado Election Laws	S	12	S-2nd Rdg
Elections	HB	1156	Public Financing GA Campaigns	W	22	PI
Elections	HB	1271	Date Of Registration For Nomination	S	39	S-SA
<b>Elections</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1370</b>	<b>Ballot Measure Disclosure Requirements</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>H-SA</b>
Elections	SB	30	Spec Election For Vacant US Senate Seat	W	12	PI
Elections	SB	41	Campaign Finance Clean-up	S	12	To Gov
Energy	HB	1098	REA Electric Coop Bd of Director Elections	S	33,53	S-2nd Rdg
<b>Energy</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1365</b>	<b>Incent Util Convert Coal To Natural Gas</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>S-2nd Rdg</b>
<b>Energy</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Colo Smart Grid Task Force</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>S-APP</b>
Equality of Opportunity	HB	1269	Workplace Fairness Civil Remedies Act	S	34	H-APP
Fiscal Policy	HB	1010	Expand Public-Private Initiatives	S	11	To Gov
Fiscal Policy	HB	1072	Create Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund	S	11	PI
Fiscal Policy	HB	1078	Changes to Transparency Online Project	S	11	PI
Fiscal Policy	HB	1087	End Automatic Employee Tax Withholding	W	11	PI
Fiscal Policy	HB	1102	Mod Vehicle Late Reg Penalties	O	21	PI
Fiscal Policy	HB	1119	SMART Government Act	S	19,51	S-FIN
Fiscal Policy	HB	1126	Priority Based Budgeting for CO	S	19	PI
Fiscal Policy	HB	1177	Create Colorado Economic Stability Fund	W	11	PI
Fiscal Policy	HB	1189	Elim Sales Tax Exemption for Direct Mail	S	9,31	Signed
Fiscal Policy	HB	1190	Suspend Indus Fuel Sales & Use Tax Exemp	S	9,31	Signed
Fiscal Policy	HB	1191	Elim Candy & Soda Sales Tax Exemption	S	9,31	Signed
Fiscal Policy	HB	1192	Sales & Use Tax Of Standardized Software	S	9,31	Signed
Fiscal Policy	HB	1193	Sales Tax Out-of-state Retailers	S	9,31	Signed
Fiscal Policy	HB	1194	Elim Nonessent Articles Sales Tax Exemp	S	9,31	Signed
Fiscal Policy	HB	1195	Suspend Ag Sales & Use Tax Exemp	S	9,31	Signed
Fiscal Policy	HB	1196	Elim Certain Cars Qualified For Tax Cred	S	10, 31	Signed
Fiscal Policy	HB	1197	Reduce Conservation Easement Cap Amount	S	10, 31	H for conc.
Fiscal Policy	HB	1198	Susp Credit Alternative Minimum Tax	S	10, 31	PI
Fiscal Policy	HB	1199	Net Operation Loss Deduction Temp Limit	S	10, 31	Signed
Fiscal Policy	HB	1200	Enter Zone Inv Tax Credit Deferral	S	10, 31	H-APP
Fiscal Policy	HB	1211	Reduce Late Vhicl Registration Penalty	O	21,51	H-Adhere

Fiscal Policy	HB	1212	Reg Rules for Late Veh Regis Fee Exemps	O	21,51	To Gov
Fiscal Policy	SB	4	Repeal Late Registration Penalties of SB09-108	O	21	PI
Fiscal Policy	SB	44	Repeal Late Registration Penalties of SB09-108	O	21	PI
Fiscal Policy	SB	57	Non-Motorized Veh Registration Fee	O	21	PI
Fiscal Policy	SB	119	Payments To Members Of GA	O	31,51	To Gov
Fiscal Policy	SCR	1	Fiscal Policy Constitutional Commission	S	10	S-SA
Fiscal Policy	SJR	2	Request For Comprehensive Tax Study	W	10	Adopted
Government	SB	87	SOS Authority to Regulate Lobbyists	S	20,50	H-APP
Government	SB	105	Prohibited Ads For Elect State Officials	O	13	PI
Government	SB	114	Taxpayer Transparency Act of 2010	S	12,32,50	H-2nd Rdg
Gun Control	SB	51	Gov Firearms Disaster Emergency	O	14	PI
Gun Control	SB	92	Exempt CO Firearms From Federal Regs	O	14	PI
Health Care	HB	1004	Standardized Health Insurance Information	S	17	H-for conc.
Health Care	HB	1008	No Gender Individual Health Ins Rates	S	16,55	To Gov
Health Care	HB	1032	Behavioral Health Crisis Response Servs	S	27, 36	H-APP
Health Care	HB	1103	Catastrophic Illness Fund for Children	S	26	H-APP
Health Care	HB	1138	Colorado Health Services Corps	S	44	S-2nd Rdg
Health Care	HB	1179	Primary Care Act	S	43	H-APP
Health Care	HB	1242	Uniform Individual Health Insurance App	S	30	To Senate
Health Care	HB	1252	Breast Cancer Screening with Mammography	S	29	S-HHS
Health Care	HB	1332	Medical Clean Claims	S	45	To Senate
Health Care	SB	14	Family System Navigators	S	17	To Gov
Health Care	SB	20	CoverColorado Financial Viability	S	16,55	H-HHS
Health Care	SB	56	Immunization Information School Children	S	17	To Gov
Health Care	SB	153	Behavioral Health Screening and Efficiency	S	26,35,45	S-2nd Rdg
Health Care	SB	167	Medicaid Efficiency & False Claims	S	29	S-APP
Health Care	SB	170	Limited Services Clinics Retail Outlets	S	44	PI
Justice System	HB	1347	DUI Penalties	S	32, 40	H-APP
Justice System	HB	1352	Controlled Substance Crime Changes	S	32,52	H-APP
Juvenile Justice	SB	54	Educ Services For Juv Charged As Adult	S	14	S-APP
Natural Resources	HB	1001	Renewable Energy Stds Solar Certif	S	23, 41	Signed
Natural Resources	HB	1127	Rocky Flats Plutonium Visitor Signs Info	O	15, 41	PI
<b>Natural Resources</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1348</b>	<b>Increase Oversight Radioactive Materials</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>H-2nd Rdg</b>
Natural Resources	SB	25	Extend Funding Water Efficiency Grants	S	15,33,52	To Gov
Natural Resources	SB	78	Facilitate Use Of Reusable Effluent	S	15, 33	PI
Reproductive Rights	HB	1021	Required Coverage Reproductive Services	S	7,30,40	To Gov
Reproductive Rights	HB	1261	Unborn Victims Of Violence Act	O	41	PI
Reproductive Rights	SB	113	First Degree Murder of a Fetus	O	41	PI
Voting Rights	HB	1045	DOR Electronic Address Change	S	32	S-APP
Voting Rights	HB	1047	Readability Of Statewide Ballot Titles	S	7,15	S-SA
Voting Rights	SB	104	Conduct of Voter Registration Drives	O	22	PI
Voting Rights	SB	179	Voting Rights Persons in Crim Jus System	SIP	40	S-JUD