



April 7, 2008

LL #7:53

### THE LONG BILL VERSUS A SLOWING ECONOMY

A few years ago, this comment was heard at the Legislature: “Government should do those things citizens cannot do for themselves and do them well.” This is not always easy to do. TABOR limits are tight. As the population of the state continues to increase, its needs do too. And when the economy is down, needs increase even more. *People forget this!* Is a rainy day fund needed? Of course it is. With so much of the budget earmarked, juggling is necessary.

The LWV commends the JBC and its staff for their hard work. Building the budget is hard work! (Just try it sometime. Or even just watch the process.) Yet a balanced budget is passed every year and on time.

The **Long Bill (HB 1375)** operating total is \$18.4 billion. Forty percent (\$7.5 B) of this is for the General Fund. GF revenue comes from income and sales taxes. Cash funds (fees) and federal funds take care of the rest of the budget. If there is a GF surplus, which is the revenue over the 6% limit, it first funds the 4% reserve. It can then be spent for SB 1, which is for highways; this year \$175.6 million will be diverted to the Highway Users Trust Fund (HUTF). The remainder can be spent 2/3 for Transportation and 1/3 for Capital Construction. This year, there is no additional money for these last two areas, and there probably won't be for the next two years.

Roads need from \$500 million to \$2 billion per year to be maintained properly. The Department of Transportation funds do *not* come from the GF, but rather from gas taxes (HUTF), and even though these funds increased by 38.5% this year, state funds for transportation are still in short supply. Meanwhile, federal funds are diminishing as well. The gasoline tax is only 22 cents per gallon for standard fuel and 20.5 cents for special fuels—and these taxes must be shared with cities and counties. Colorado gas taxes have not been raised for 17 years.

Capital Construction funds have decreased, and so the project list has been reorganized. While the JBC stated there are no bad projects on the list, it decided to include only life-saving projects and those that need only one year of funding. It was mentioned that there is no point in starting projects that will be in trouble if there will be no money for them in the future. An example is the large hole on the Auraria campus that is the beginning of a new science building. This is a \$111 million project. In jest someone suggested that per-

haps the state could afford a large tarp. *When this problem came to light, a group gathered together to look for funding. At the moment, they are looking at the federal oil and gas lease revenues.*

Total funding for the Department of Education increased 5% in this budget. Recommended GF increases included \$146.5 million for public school finance.

All state higher education schools have been changed to Enterprise Zones, which receive less than 10% of their revenue from the state and are thus exempt from TABOR. One method used to help hold to the 10% limit is to give tuition grants directly to students, who in return pay the money to the college. In this way it is no longer state money. This helps! Higher Education needs all the help it can get!

The budget also provides for 1,334 additional employees. Many of these will be in the judicial department, replacing positions cut in the downturn. Present employees will receive wage increases from 2.2 to 4.1 percent—although their paychecks will probably be less because of increased health insurance premiums, just like everyone else.

As has been pointed out many times, Referendum C allows the state to retain all revenue collected for a five-year period. The total amount that is now forecasted to be retained under the five years of Ref. C. is \$5.8 billion; the 2008-09 portion is \$1.1 billion. It will be spent as follows:

1. Education (State Share of Districts' Total Program funding)	\$369.0 million
2. Health (Medical Services Premiums)	\$369.0 million
3. Higher Ed (College Opportunity Fund Programs)	\$330.5 million
4. Local Affairs (Volunteer Firefighter Retirement Plans)	\$ 4.2 million
5. Treasury (Fire & Police Pension Associations)	\$ 34.8 million
6. Transportation (Capital Transfer Bill)	\$ 9.0 million

The proposed budget provides the following GF increases. These total \$416.8 million; just \$9 million less than the 6% GF increase.

- \$157.0 million for K-12 Education
- \$ 69.1 million for the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing
- \$ 64.6 million for the Higher Education system
- \$ 52.0 million for the Department of Corrections
- \$ 44.6 million for the Department of Human Services
- \$ 29.5 million for the Judicial Branch

The budget package also includes several bills with fiscal impacts that passed this year totaling \$39.9 million. This trend is headed in the right direction, as all bills with fiscal impacts in the past few years were not allowed to pass—no money. But it is still easy to see that this is a tight budget.

*WE HAVE JUST ONE MORE YEAR OF REFERENDUM C; THEN WE ARE BACK TO TABOR.*

Phyllis Horney, 303.771.6683

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# GOVERNMENT

## WILL THIS BE THE YEAR TO REVISE THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCESS?

**NEW** **SCR 3 Changes to Initiatives (Sen. Tapia; Rep. White) (support)** is the product of the Senate Select Committee on Constitutional Reform (see LL #5, p. 35). The measure proposes to tie the number of signatures necessary for a citizen initiative to get on the ballot to the number of votes cast in the race for governor. That race generates more votes statewide than the race for secretary of state, which is the current basis. Initiated statutes would be required to submit signatures equaling at least 4% of the votes cast for governor, while initiated constitutional amendments would require signatures equaling at least 6% of the votes cast for governor. The signatures must be gathered from all over the state, with at least 10% coming from each of the seven congressional districts. Initiated constitutional amendments would need to be filed seven months ahead of the election (instead of the current three months). Finally, initiated statutes would be protected because the General Assembly would be able to change them only with a two-thirds majority vote for the first six years after passage.

This is an important step toward good governance. It preserves the right of the people to petition government through the initiative process. However, as the exercise of that right has favored constitutional rather than statutory provisions, the ability of the General Assembly to make and execute rational policy has been curtailed. League has long supported making it harder to amend the constitution than to amend statutes, with a balance of protecting initiated statutes from legislative interference for enough time to see how they work.

Our concern with this measure is the requirement for geographical distribution of signatures. Grass roots groups that have very limited dollars for paying petition circulators will have a harder time than well-funded groups in collecting signatures. And the counting and verifying—for the sponsors and the Secretary of State—will be much more complex.

That concern, however, is not sufficient to dampen our support for this measure, which is the product of so much hard work by Sens. Tapia, Shaffer, and Mitchell; Reps. White, Roberts, and A. Kerr; the advisors they brought; and the wide spectrum of individuals and groups who provided input.

Alice Ramsey and Lois Schafer, 303.863.0427

## CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING: TWO APPROACHES

**SB 198 Congressional Redistricting Requirements (Sen. Gordon) (support)** directs the General Assembly to use several criteria in creating congressional districts, to conduct at least 12 public hearings throughout the state on proposed plans and to involve the public in the redistricting process. It was heard in Senate State Affairs on March 24. Only Common Cause and League testified in support of the bill; there was no opposition testimony. It passed out of committee on a party line vote 3-2. Chairman Tapia sent it straight to the Senate floor, rather than to Appropriations as scheduled, since the fiscal note was a small \$50,000. Previously reported in LL #6, p.44.

**NEW** **HCR 1004 Congressional/General Assembly Redistricting Commission (Rep. Bruce) (support in part)** creates a special commission to redistrict the General Assembly and congressional districts. It specifies that the General Assembly shall consist of 35 senators and 70 representatives and requires each congressional district to contain 5 state senate districts. It further specifies the commission's procedures and timing and the criteria for the creation and appeal of district boundaries. If no final plan exists by October 1 of the redistricting year, the Colorado Supreme Court will choose from among the plans the one complying most closely with the three main standards listed in the bill, and that plan shall apply only to the next general election. Until a commission-approved plan is final, a new commission shall meet every other year to try to reach agreement.

The League supports the parts of the bill that set standards such as population equality, other federal requirements for redistricting, geographical compactness, and minimizing division of existing counties, cities and towns. We also support holding public meetings in each congressional district and allowing public access to redistricting data and public input into the process.

The bill poses several problems, however. Changing the House membership from 65 to 70 will allow the nesting of two House districts into each Senate district, which is helpful, but it offers the possibility of many tie votes in the House, which has no tie-breaker, as does the U.S. Senate. The commission would be chosen by the General Assembly (4 members) and the Secretary of State (2), with the seventh appointed by the 6 other members. The present commission for the General Assembly is chosen by the General Assembly, Governor and Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, a much more equitable system. The biggest

problem comes from the possibility of having to redo the plan multiple times within a 10-year period if the commission cannot agree on a plan. By contrast, the Colorado Supreme Court's ruling is final in the system we have now. This bill is scheduled for hearing in House State Affairs on April 10.

Pat Johnson, 303.494.5139

## JUSTICE SYSTEM

### TWO BILLS ADDRESS DNA EVIDENCE

**SB 205 New Trial For Destroying Evidence (Sens. Gordon & S. Mitchell; Reps. King & Jahn (support)).** If a judge orders DNA tests and “a law enforcement agency intentionally, or negligently destroys, loses or otherwise disposes of biological evidence....” before it is tested, the bill requires the court to grant a new trial. It passed 3<sup>rd</sup> reading Mar. 25 on a vote of 23-9, making it one vote short of veto-proof in the Senate. Sens. Ward, Renfroe, Spence, Wiens and Schulthies asked to be removed as sponsors. Previously reported: LL #5, p. 45.

#### Senate vote, SB 205

YES	23	NO	9	EXCUSED	3	ABSENT	0
Bacon	Y	Johnson	Y	Romer	Y	Tochtrop	Y
Boyd	Y	Keller	Y	Sandoval	Y	Tupa	E
Brophy	Y	Kester	Y	Schulthies	N	Veiga	Y
Cadman	E	Kopp	N	Schwartz	Y	Ward	N
Gibbs	Y	McElhany	N	Shaffer	E	Wiens	N
Gordon	Y	Mitchell S.	Y	Spence	Y	Williams	Y
Hagedorn	Y	Morse	Y	Takis	Y	Windels	Y
Harvey	N	Penry	N	Tapia	Y	President	Y
Isgar	Y	Renfroe	N	Taylor	N		

**HB 1351 Retention of DNA Evidence (Reps. Jahn & King; Sens. Kopp & Boyd) (support)** was PI'd in the House Judiciary Committee April 3 at the request of the sponsors. Rep. Jahn explained that a new bill will be drafted. Voting Yes to PI: M. Carroll, B. Gardner, Jahn, A. Kern, Roberts; voting No: King, Levy, Stafford; excused: Marshall, Stephens, T. Carroll. Previously reported in LL #6, p. 44.

Marilyn Shuey, 303.863.0437

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

### JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH BILL TO GOV

**HB 1016 Juvenile Justice Mental Health Process (Rep. Solano; Sen. Boyd) (support)** passed 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in the Senate on March 24. The full Senate res-

tored a House amendment that allowed information from the evaluations to be used as evidence of guilt, if the juvenile “places his or her mental health at issue.” The bill has as its purpose making it easier to obtain mental health evaluations of children in the juvenile justice system and to include mental health treatment in dispositions for children who require these services. The House concurred with the Senate amendments on March 28, and the bill has been sent to the Governor for his signature. Previously reported in LL #2, p. 9; LL #6, p. 45.

Frank Bennett, 303.757.2930

## VOTING RIGHTS

### MAJORITY, NOT PLURALITY, VOTING

**NEW** **HB 1378 Ranked Voting Methods (Rep. Kefalas, Sen. Gordon) (support in part)** concerns the creation of a pilot project on the use of ranked voting methods. Ranked voting is a method of casting and tabulating votes that allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference and uses the preferences to determine the winner of the election. As an example, in the Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) method (for single-seat elections), voters have the ability to vote for first, second, and perhaps third choices in candidates. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, then the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and his ballots are redistributed to the remaining candidates according to the voters’ preferences until a majority is reached.

Up to twelve local governments may notify the Secretary of State of their interest in participating in the pilot project, which would be conducted for local elections in 2009 or 2010. The SOS would then be required to submit a report on the pilot project to the General Assembly.

The bill also includes the Proportional Representation method of ranked voting, which would be used in multi-seat elections. As this method is more complicated, we hesitate to support it at this time. A great deal of explanation and education would be needed to explain it to the electorate.

The bill includes a provision that after July 1, 2009, the SOS certify only voting machines that are capable of recording, tabulating and auditing elections conducted by a ranked voting method. Understandably the prospect of further machine certification is alarming to county clerks!

The League supports the concept of IRV, which encourages the electorate to feel that their votes count.

It would address the “spoiler effect” whereby a third party candidate is perceived to have determined the outcome of an election. Voters would be able make a more honest choice, not one based on a concern that they’d be “wasting” their vote on a particular candidate. Additionally this could lead to more civil campaigning, as candidates would not want to alienate the supporters of their opponents in order to be the voter’s second choice.

The House State, Veterans and Military Committee heard testimony on April 3, when several amendments were discussed. The meeting was adjourned, and an action-only committee meeting will be conducted on April 10.

Carol Tone, 303.377.3746

## **VOTER REGISTRATION...TO BE CONTINUED**

**HB 1329 Inactive Registration and Mail Ballot Elections (Rep. Marshall; Sen. Gordon) (support)** continues to be laid over in the Senate for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. On March 24 this bill, designed to extend active status for registered voters, was heard in the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee and referred in a vote along party lines (3-2) to the Committee of the Whole. The Committee did pass an amendment which would permit clerks and recorders to keep as “inactive” voters whose voter confirmation card is returned as undeliverable. Allowing voters to stay on the active rolls until they miss voting in two general elections, along with other issues, was discussed but no action was taken at that time. Senator Gordon indicated that he would talk to the clerks regarding additional amendments prior to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Carol Tone, 303.377.3746

# **NATURAL RESOURCES**

## **ENERGY**

### **EXPANDING THE COLORADO CLEAN ENERGY AUTHORITY**

**NEW** **HB 1350 Facilitate Financing of Renewable Energy Projects (Rep. Madden; Sen. Romer) (support)** will expand the types of projects that can be financed by the Colorado Clean Energy Authority (established by HB 07-1150) to include energy efficiency retrofits and the installation of renewable energy fixtures for private residences and commercial property.

The bill also removes the Colorado Clean Energy Fund from the State Treasury, which likely means it will be established with a private financial institution.

In addition, the bill expands the types of capital improvement projects that counties and municipalities may finance through assessments to include energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. Local governments will be authorized to initiate special improvement districts to encourage and finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. The districts will include only properties whose owners have consented to be included in the district. Assessments for these improvements will be added to the annual tax bill for the property and will therefore stay with the property and transfer to the new owner in the event of the property’s sale.

HB 1350 passed the House Transportation and Energy Committee on April 1 with a vote of 12 yes with one member excused. Since there is no fiscal impact the next step will be 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the House.

Sigrid Higdon, 303.233.8111

## **WATER**

### **WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT FAILS**

**SB 36 Water Supply Reserve Account (Sen. Isgar; Rep. Curry) (support)** would allow the CWCB to allocate monies by grant or loan from the water supply reserve account of the severance tax trust fund to those applicants who have a water conservation plan. The House had amended the bill to include an annual appropriation by the General Assembly. Any one applicant would have to repay the principal and interest on loans which then would be credited into the severance tax account. After a conference committee failed to arrive at a consensus, both House and Senate adhered to their positions. Barring a compromise and fancy parliamentary steps, the bill is dead. Previously reported: LL #6, p. 30.

Jeannette Hillery, 303.494.7718

### **IN-STREAM FLOW BILL GETS CONCURRENCE**

**HB 1280 Protect In-Stream Flow Water Rights (Rep. Fisher; Sen. Schwartz) (support)** was held up several weeks and went to a House/Senate concurrence committee, which made a final decision on April 1. The House agreed to concur with the Senate amendments which addressed historical beneficial

uses being taken into consideration of the loaned or leased water to the CWCB. It upheld the use of measuring devices to maintain records of how much water the CWCB uses under the contracts. The Senate amendments also included allowing the water court(s) to implement the contract and to decree historic beneficial uses. The historic beneficial uses could be considered for downstream of the in-stream flow reach and would consider consumable, reusable water. The court would insure that there was no injury.

On April 1 the House concurred with the Senate amendments, 63-1, with Bruce voting No.

Jeannette Hillery, 303.494.7718

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

### **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

#### **STREAMLINING RECORDS TRANSFERS HELPS FOSTER CHILDREN**

**House Bill 1019 Transfer Education Records for Children (Rep. Casso; Sen. Sandoval) (support)** was proposed by a group of foster children asked what could be done to make a change of placement less stressful. They suggested that streamlining the transfer of records from the sending school to the receiving school would be helpful. All school districts are required to create a position of liaison with the Department of Human Services. One of the duties of the position would be to monitor the transfer of records from the sending school to the receiving school. The bill has passed the House and the Senate with little opposition. The Senate amended the bill to lengthen the time frame allowed to transfer records from two days to five days. The bill also dealt with the conditions under which a school could deny enrollment to a student. If the student were expelled from the sending school for possession of weapons or drugs, he could be denied enrollment. If it had been determined that he was a danger to himself or to others, he could be denied enrollment. Enrollment could not be denied for lack of an immunization record. On April 1, the House concurred with the Senate amendments, and the bill is ready to be sent to the Governor for signing into law.

Hopefully, this law will improve the experiences of children in the foster care system who are required to change placements. Changing placements is a stressful time for those in out-of-home placement.

Roberta Long-Twyman, 303.377.9193

## **EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **EDUCATION BILLS FIND FAVOR IN SENATE AND HOUSE**

**HB 1335 Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) (Rep. Romanoff; Sen. Groff) (support)** was heard by Senate Education on March 26. Several witnesses from a variety of educational organizations and school districts testified in support of the bill. An amendment was approved without objection that added wording clarifying that Boards of Cooperative Educational Services were eligible for facilities funding assistance in situations where a BOCES operated a program in a facility for which the BOCES was responsible. As amended, HB 1335 was referred to Senate Appropriations on a 6-0-1 vote (Williams excused). (See LL #5, p. 39, and LL #6, p. 47.)

**SB 89 Early Intervening Services For Students (Sen. Williams; Rep. C. Gardner) (watch)** passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the House on April 2 with an additional amendment related to identification numbers for students who receive early intervention services. It passed 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on April 3 with a vote of 63 in favor, one opposed (Bruce), and one excused (Witwer). Previously reported in LL #5, p. 31, and LL #6, p. 48.

Catherine Felknor, 303.494.7199

### **CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION PROCEDURES CLARIFIED**

**HB 1159 Institute Charter Schools (Rep. Fischer; Sen. Bacon) (Support)**, would clarify procedures for the granting of charter schools and define the mission of the charter institute as focusing on closing the achievement gap for at risk students. It passed on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in the Senate on March 27 on a vote of 34-0. The amendments added by the Senate Education Committee require a written explanation if the State Board of Education denies or revokes the exclusive authority of a local school board to authorize charter schools within its boundaries. The amended bill returned to the House and was accepted with the Senate amendments on a vote of 63-1 (Bruce), a smooth ride for a bill that was in the midst of much controversy last year. The bill now goes to the Governor.

Sally Augden, 303.455.5800

**Legislative Home Page:**  
[www.leg.state.co.us/](http://www.leg.state.co.us/)

## REDUCE CSAP TESTING?

**NEW** **HB 1357 State and Federal Alignment of Educational Assessments (Rep. Solano; Sen. Williams) (watch)** was introduced on March 10. As introduced, the bill proposed a major reduction in the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP). Beginning with the 2009-10 school year, annual state-wide testing would include:

- Reading and math for all students enrolled in grades 3 through 8 (eliminates writing at all grades and eliminates reading & math at grades 9 & 10)
- Science for all students enrolled in grades 4 and 8 (eliminates science at grades 5 & 10, but adds science in grade 4)
- College entrance exam for all students in grade 11 (maintains the current testing with ACT at grade 11, but makes it the only assessment administered during high school)

In addition, the new plan would eliminate the CSAP-A, an alternative test developed over several years to be more appropriate for assessing students with disabilities. The new structure would meet federal requirements contained in No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for grades 3 through 8 (i.e., reading & math at all grades, plus science at grade 3, 4 or 5 and at grade 6, 7, 8 or 9). It would NOT meet the federal requirement for reading, math and science in grade 10, 11 or 12. It would be necessary for CDE to submit a request for a waiver to make these deletions at the high school level – a waiver that may not be approved. Since writing assessment is not a NCLB requirement, no waiver would be needed for eliminating this testing at grades 3 through 10.

The primary purpose of these changes would be to reduce the money spent on assessment (estimated at more than \$20 million for CSAP this year, according to the *Denver Post*, March 30, 2008) and to redirect funds to programs that facilitate student learning. HB 1357 proposes that beginning in the 2009-10 budget year, the savings realized from reduced CSAP testing would provide additional appropriations for the dropout prevention activity grant fund and the teacher development fund.

While LWVCO is very much in favor of reducing the amount of time and money spent on assessment and redirecting those savings toward programs to facilitate student learning, there is serious concern about making major changes without a thorough examination of the pros and cons of the current assessment system, including systematic input from the education community. Thus, we are taking a watch position on HB 1357.

We have specific concerns about three components in the proposed plan:

- Writing is an important skill, perhaps the most important for success in high school and most post-secondary educational opportunities. Colorado has gone to considerable expense to develop and implement a writing assessment that has been used for several years with some good results (e.g., *Rocky Mountain News*, April 4, 2008: Eighth-graders gain in writing – Colorado was tied for 5<sup>th</sup> highest state on the writing assessment by National Assessment of Educational Progress). Writing assessment is something that many Colorado school districts were struggling with prior to the introduction of the CSAP and they would have to go back to working on this independently.
- Eliminating the CSAP-A is a concern. It is very important that students with disabilities be tested with appropriate assessment procedures. Feedback to teachers as well as to students and parents is extremely important for instructional planning. Without these alternative tests, students with serious disabilities could be taking the same CSAPs as all other students or staying at home. Federal requirements include *all* students and even call for separate analyses for several subgroups (including Special Education students).
- Lack of assessment information during high school regarding how well students are meeting the Colorado Content Standards could leave a serious gap in preparing students for graduation and for successful engagement in post-secondary learning.

There is also a question regarding switching the science test from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, which would involve the expense of developing a new test.

Perhaps of greatest concern is the coordination of this bill with SB 212 (the Governor's plan for alignment of education from preschool through post-secondary). As introduced, this bill could call for major adjustment or new development in standards, instruction, and assessment. The two bills could be at cross purposes. Thus, it seems unwise to pass HB 1357 until more details are worked out for SB 212.

HB 1357 was amended by House Education on March 20, but has been laid over for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading—perhaps due to the same concern expressed above regarding the relationship with SB 212.

Catherine Felknor, 303.494.7199

# **INCOME ASSISTANCE**

## **MORE LOCAL FLEXIBILITY IN TANF BILL**

**SB 177 Colorado Works Omnibus (Sen. Boyd; Rep. McGihon) (support)** is necessary both to make Colorado’s implementation of Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) conform to changes in federal law, and to allow it to address changing circumstances. The 89-page bill was heard in Senate Health and Human Services committee on March 26, where it was reduced to 45 pages via a “strike below” amendment.

As amended, the bill increases flexibility for local governments to use TANF funds flexibly to address local circumstances, and, importantly, to increase the cash or cash-equivalent assistance. Much of the initial bill removed hard-won elements from prior years, and the amended bill removed those removals. Accordingly, we are changing our position from “watch” to “support.” The committee passed the bill unanimously, and it awaits hearing in Senate Appropriations.

Christine Watson, 303.250.1796

## **STATUS SHEET**

The Status Sheet is a constantly updated list of bills being followed by Legislative Action Committee members. New bills are in **boldface**.

<b>Policy Area</b>	<b>S/H</b>	<b>Bill #</b>	<b>Bill Title</b>	<b>S/O</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>	<b>Status</b>
Campaign Finance	HB	1041	Campaign Finance Enforcement	S	8, 27	To Gov
Children & Families	HB	1019	Transfer Education Records for Foster Children	S	12, 21, 58	To Gov
Children & Families	HB	1051	Core Services for Families	S	12	Signed
Education	SB	18	Higher Education Clean-up	S	13, 48	To Gov
Education	SB	89	Early Intervening Services	W	31, 48, 58	To Gov
Education	SB	98	Graduation Requirement: English	O	21	S-3rd rdg
Education	HB	1024	CSAP Longitudinal Analysis Models	S	13, 21	Signed
Education	HB	1159	Institute Charter Schools	S	12, 21, 40, 48, 58	To Gov
Education	HB	1186	No Penalty for Students Missing CSAP's	W	46	Conf Com
Education	HB	1205	Increase Higher Ed CDC Exceptions	S	32, 48	Signed
Education	HB	1335	Building Excellent Schools Today Act	S	39, 47, 58	S-APP
<b>Education</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>Align State and Fed Ed Assessments</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>H-2nd rdg</b>
Energy	HB	1025	Governor's Energy Office	S	11	Signed
Energy	HB	1107	Energy Efficiency- REA's	S	20	S-SA
Energy	HB	1160	Net Metering - REA's	S	20	Signed
Energy	HB	1270	CICs Allow Energy Efficiency	S	38	Concur
<b>Energy</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>Financing Renewable Energy</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>H-3rd rdg</b>
Equality of Opp'y	SB	122	Wage Transparency Act	S	22, 32, 40, 48	To Gov
Equality of Opp'y	SB	200	Expand Discrimination Prohibitions	S	48	S-APP
Fiscal Policy	SCR	1	Expand Existing Property Tax Exemptions	FYI	36	S-FIN
Fiscal Policy	SB	13	Sev. Tax Trust Fund -Ops	S	15	S-APP
Fiscal Policy	SB	128	Eliminate Sales Tax Cap	O	16	H-2nd rdg
Fiscal Policy	HCR	1002	Senior Property Tax Exemption Eligibility	FYI	36	H-APP
Fiscal Policy	HCR	1003	Senior Property Tax Exemption Eligibility	FYI	36	H-APP
Fiscal Policy	HB	1083	Mineral Revenue Local Gov't Distr.	S	15	S-3rd rdg
Fiscal Policy	HB	1225	Bus. Pers. Prop. Tax Exempt.	S	17, 27	H-APP

Policy Area	S/H	Bill #	Bill Title	S/O	Page(s)	Status
Fiscal Policy	HB	1245	Net Revenue Reductions	O	16, 27	PI
<b>Fiscal Policy</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1375</b>	<b>Long Bill (Budget)</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>Conf Com</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>SCR</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Changes to Initiatives</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>S-SA</b>
Government	SB	198	Requirements for Campaign Redistricting	S	44, 55	S-2nd rdg
<b>Government</b>	<b>HCR</b>	<b>1004</b>	<b>Redistricting Commission</b>	<b>S in part</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>H-SA</b>
Government	HB	1157	Youth Advisory Council	S	27	H-3rd Rdg
Gun Control	SB	49	Access to Firearms by Minors	S	8, 17	S-APP
Gun Control	SB	115	Civil Action - Gun Free Zones	O	17	PI
Health Care	SB	99	Extend Medicaid: Foster Care	S	22	H-APP
Health Care	SB	160	Children's Health Care	S	33, 40	S-APP
Health Care	SB	161	Medicaid and CHP+ Enrollment	S	40	S- APP
Health Care	SB	194	Public Health Reorganization	S	49	S-APP
Health Care	SB	203	Repeal 208 Commission	FYI	50	S-F*IN
Health Care	HB	1167	Health Care for Vulnerable Populations	S	22	PI
Health Care	HB	1309	Sunset Review: CoverColorado Assess.	S	22	S-2nd rdg
Income Assistance	SB	177	Colorado Works Program Omnibus	S	50, 60	S-HHS
Income Assistance	HB	1340	Colo Housing Investment Fund	S	40	PI
Justice System	SB	54	Judicial Performance Evaluation	S	8, 18, 44	H-JUD
Justice System	SB	205	New Trial For Destroying Evidence	S	44, 56	H-JUD
Justice System	HB	1351	Retention of DNA Evidence	S	37, 44, 56	PI
Juvenile Justice	SB	66	Felony Murder Penalty for Juveniles	S	9, 28	S- APP
Juvenile Justice	HB	1016	Juvenile Justice Mental Health Procedures	S	9, 45, 56	To Gov
Juvenile Justice	HB	1117	Juvenile Restorative Justice Program	S	9, 29, 45	Signed
Juvenile Justice	HB	1208	Limits on Direct File Juvenile Case	S	28, 37	S-JUD
Reproductive Rights	SB	3	Medicaid Family Planning	S	10, 18, 29	Signed
Reproductive Rights	SB	95	Informed Consent for Abortion	O	10, 30	PI
Reproductive Rights	SB	125	Sexual Material Harmful to Children	O	29, 37	S-APP
Transportation	HB	1312	Transportation Investment Efficiency	S in part	18	PI
Voting Rights	SB	40	Online Voter Registration	S	11, 38	S-3rd rdg
Voting Rights	SB	189	Paper Ballots in 2008 Elections	S	38, 45	PI
Voting Rights	HB	1039	Voter Photo ID in Elections	O	10, 19	PI
Voting Rights	HB	1155	Cert. of Voting Systems for 2008 Election	S	11, 19	Signed
Voting Rights	HB	1177	Citizenship Documents for Voting	O	11, 19	PI
Voting Rights	HB	1329	Inactive Registration & Mail Ballot Elections	S	30, 37, 45, 56	S-2nd rdg
<b>Voting Rights</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1378</b>	<b>Ranked Voting Methods</b>	<b>S in part</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>H-SVM</b>
Water	SB	36	Water Supply Reserve Account	S	20, 30, 57	Lost
Water	HB	1141	Require Sufficient Water Supply	S	20, 31	H-APP
Water	HB	1241	Colo Watershed Protection Check-off	S	20, 46	S-APP
Water	HB	1280	Protect Leased Instream Flow Rights	S	20, 31, 46, 57	To Gov

**WANTED: LEGISLATIVE LETTER EDITOR**

The Legislative Action Committee is looking for a new editor to take over the Legislative Letter next year. If you are detail oriented and fascinated by politics, this is the job for you! This **volunteer position** requires **excellent editing and computer skills** (you have to work fast and be able to troubleshoot minor but annoying glitches), plus attendance at LAC meetings every other Friday morning January through mid-May. A familiar and friendly relationship with Microsoft Word is essential; you should know how to create columns, paginate, change and resize fonts, and so on. The LAC is a crack team of expert lobbyists, and the meetings are lively and informative. You'll get a crash course in government from the best! Please call our office if you are interested (303.863.0437).

Leslie Chomic, Editor