

Colorado Legislative Update - CoSEA February 16, 2024

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As of Friday morning, 467 bills had been introduced, 309 in the House and 160 in the Senate. Friday was the 38th day of the 120-day session which means the session will be one-third finished on Sunday, the 40th day.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM UNDER THE DOME

- [HB24-1041](#), which streamlines the sales and use tax system, passed out of House Appropriations Committee and will be heard on the House floor soon.

Recently introduced bills include:

- [SB24-159](#), would require the state to stop issuing new oil and gas drilling permits by 2030 and impose other limitations on production. Four Democrats, representing northeastern Colorado districts impacted by energy production, have proposed the bill. They are Senators Kevin Priola and Sonya Jaquez Lewis and Representatives Andrew Boesenecker and Julia Marvin.
- [HB24-1292](#) is another hot-button measure which proposes a ban on assault weapons. The primary sponsors include Democrat Representatives Elizabeth Epps and Tim Hernandez, along with support from 14 other House Democrats. Currently, there are no sponsors from the Senate.
- The House had an extensive debate but gave final approval Monday to [HB24-1014](#), which seeks to strengthen state deceptive trade practices law. The bill to ban use of the term “excited delirium” by police passed the House easily.

Some interesting committee debates this week were over allowing students to use preferred names at school ([HB24-1039](#) in House Education), restrictions on cell phone use while driving ([SB24-065](#) in Senate Transportation), and a human trafficking bill ([HB24-1092](#) in House State Affairs). The first two passed out of committee; the third was killed.

On Friday morning, the House had a long debate over [HB24-1098](#), the measure to create stronger eviction protections for renters, before plodding into the rest of an 11-bill “special orders” calendar and working past noon.

TALLYING THE BILLS

Beyond the oil and gas and assault weapons bills, other new measures of interest this week included:

- [HB24-1303](#), modifying how the open meetings law applies to the legislature
- [HB24-1306](#), increasing criminal penalties for possession of synthetic opioids

- [SB24-158](#), a proposal to protect juveniles on social media
- [HB24-1270](#), requiring firearms owners to carry liability insurance
- [HB24-1284](#), limiting use of personal recognizance bonds for people accused of committing violent crimes

And there was a significant influx of “sunset bills,” the measures necessary to reauthorize state agencies and programs that have gone through their periodic reviews.

THIS WEEK AT THE JBC

The three Senate members in the committee had to shepherd a 33-bill supplemental package through their chamber, experiencing occasional delays due to lengthy speeches. With those adjustments to the state’s current budget on their way to the governor, the committee has fulfilled one of its key annual duties.

Members found themselves navigating the usual scheduling challenges like unpredictable floor schedules and having to present non-budget bills in other committees. They conducted FY2024-25 figure-setting for the departments of Natural Resources, Early Childhood, Human Services and Judicial, along with a few smaller agencies; however, the committee laid over some key issues like the Early Childhood IT request, county administration funding in DHS, and a big requested increase by the state public defender. The committee found itself behind schedule as the legislature convened Friday morning.

The CoSEA Public Policy Committee meets regularly throughout the legislative session and takes positions on legislation on behalf of CoSEA. If you have an interest in serving on the Public Policy Committee, please email governmentrelations@cosea.org.

To see what other legislation CoSEA is following, check out the bill tracker linked below:

<https://www.statebillinfo.com/SBI/index.cfm?fuseaction=Public.Dossier&id=34275&pk=486&style=pinstripe>