

## Colorado Legislative Update - CoSEA February 9, 2024

### **Bill Introduced & Benched the Same Week**

A highly contentious pet registry bill was put forth by Rep. Regina English (D-Co. Springs) and postponed indefinitely in the same week following overwhelming public criticism. Opponents of the bill claimed that its mandatory registration fee of \$8-\$25 per pet amounted to a new tax and additional hardship on Coloradans. Rep. English maintained that her bill aimed to provide support for pets whose owners couldn't care for them, but she pulled back the bill after sharp public criticism and even some death threats over the legislation.

### **House Declines to Admit Jewish Delegation, Senate Accepts Them**

Following violations of decorum during last year's Special session by Democrat Representative Elisabeth Epps (D-Denver), House Speaker Julie McCluskie (D-Dillon) declined to allow a Jewish delegation of families who were victimized by Hamas to be recognized on the House floor. Rep. Ron Weinberg released a statement calling the incident "outrageous" and called for human decency.

### **Legislative Update**

Lawmakers finished the last of the state department oversight hearings that are required by the SMART Act. This week, the House and Senate committees will have full calendars with bills to consider.

As of Friday morning, lawmakers had introduced 381 bills, 228 in the House and 153 in the Senate. Friday was the 31st day of the 120-day session. Key legislation updates this week:

- House appropriations had a busy week approving supplemental appropriations to [35 state departments and agencies](#)
- House Health and Human Services green lights two bills concerning Child health, welfare, abuse and fatality. [HB24-1046](#) lays further requirements for mandatory reporting of child abuse to include environmental, historical and other contextual factors in the report. [HB24-1088](#) strengthens local control over investigations of child fatalities.
- House Health and Human Services Committee also approved [HB24-1075](#): the first step into an exploration of a single-payer healthcare system 8 years after it was soundly rejected as a ballot measure in 2016. Back then, estimates of the single-payer health system in would have resulted in \$25 Billion in new taxes for Coloradans.
- [SB24-086](#), the Breast Cancer Screening Fund Transfer, was passed out of the Senate Finance Committee and also passed Second Reading in the Senate on a voice vote. It will be heard on Third Reading on Monday, February 12.
- Colorado may be one step closer to accepting social workers with out-of-state licenses, as [HB24-1002](#) passed House Finance committee favorably and was referred to House Appropriations. This

could provide quick relief to an overburdened social worker system

- College textbooks in some Colorado counties may be exempt from sales tax as early as July 1, 2024, as House Finance approved and referred [HB24-1018](#) to the committee on appropriations.

### **Budget Update**

Supplemental funding bills were earmarked with funds for each and moved through the House Appropriations Committee approval process this week. Bills for 35 total departments/agencies were referred to the Committee of the Whole. This was a crucial step in finalizing the FY2024-2025 budget as part of the preliminary work for The Long Bill.

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](mailto: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>