



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

LAWS ENACTED

AFFECTING MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENTS

2025
COLORADO



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CML ADVOCACY TEAM



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY MANAGER **HEATHER STAUFFER**

Heather is responsible for advocating municipal interests before the state legislature. Her issues include building codes; natural resources and environment; elections; governmental immunity; oil and gas; open meetings/open records; severance tax/FML/energy impact; water and wastewater/water quality; and wildfire. She also assists in training and answering inquiries for other municipal officials on various topics. Heather joined CML in July 2019.



LEGISLATIVE & POLICY ADVOCATE **ELIZABETH HASKELL**

Elizabeth is responsible for advocating municipal interests before the state legislature. Her issues include beer & liquor; employment & labor; retirement/pensions; taxation & fiscal policy; lottery & gaming; historic preservation; municipal debt & finance; and purchasing. She also assists in training and answering inquiries for other municipal officials on various topics. Elizabeth joined CML in October 2023.



LEGISLATIVE & POLICY ADVOCATE **BEVERLY STABLES**

Beverly is responsible for advocating municipal interests before the state legislature. Her issues include public health; substance abuse; affordable housing; land use and annexation; air quality; transportation and transit; and sustainability. She also assists in training and answering inquiries for other municipal officials on various topics. Beverly joined CML in October 2023.

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GLOSSARY

- BHA** Colorado Behavioral Health Administration
- CDLE** Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
- CDOT** Colorado Department of Transportation
- CDPHE** Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- CEO** Colorado Energy Office
- DOC** Colorado Department of Corrections
- DOLA** Colorado Department of Local Affairs
- DPS** Colorado Department of Public Safety
- OIT** Governor's Office of Information Technology
- POST** Peace Officer Standards and Training
- PUC** Public Utilities Commission

2025 Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipal GOVERNMENTS

ACCESSIBILITY

HB25-1017

Community Integration Plan Individuals with Disabilities

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1017>

The act requires the creation of a comprehensive state community integration plan to provide individuals with disabilities opportunities to live, work, and be served in the least restrictive setting possible, consistent with *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999). The act requires that all public entities administer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the qualified individual with a disability. Community-based services, as opposed to institutionalization, must be provided when the services are appropriate, the affected individual does not oppose them, and they can be reasonably accommodated. Before reducing services, a governmental entity must assess whether the risk of institutionalization is increased and take all reasonable steps to avoid that risk. The act excepts compliance that would constitute a fundamental alteration of a program. The act does not create a new right of action. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1030

Accessibility Standards in Building Codes

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1030>

The act requires municipalities, counties, and regional building departments to ensure that new or updated building codes meet or exceed the accessibility standards of the two most recent versions of the International Building Code. Similar standards apply to the state housing board. The act does not require adoption of new building codes; the trigger is the adoption or substantial amendment of a building code or the replacement of a building code with a succeeding version of the International Building Code. Adoption of energy-efficiency codes does not trigger the requirement.

This act does not apply to 1- or 2-family dwellings or townhomes compliant with the International Residential Code or an equivalent local building code. Local accessibility standards cannot provide less protection than is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. **Effective: Jan. 1, 2026.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1152

Tech Accessibility Liability Contractor

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1152>

The act requires that state, public school, and local government contracts include provisions requiring compliance with the OIT's accessibility standards for an individual with a disability and requiring indemnity for the contractor's non-compliance. Such provisions are deemed included if omitted. The act excludes professional services agreements. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

See also: **GOVERNMENTAL LIABILITY & IMMUNITY** (HB25-1239: Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act)

Beer & LIQUOR

SB25-033

Prohibit New Liquor-Licensed Drug Stores

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-033>

The act prohibits the state and local liquor licensing authorities from issuing new liquor-licensed drugstore (LLD) licenses, however, licensing authorities may continue to renew existing LLD licenses. A LLD licensee is prohibited from merging, selling, transferring, converting, or changing the location of a license except that an independent pharmacy licensed before Jan. 1, 2025, may change the location of, or sell, or transfer the license to another independent pharmacy with a license, or to a person that does not have a license. Owners, shareholders, and others with an interest in an LLD may have an interest in up to eight LLDs. **Effective: April 10, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

Broadband & TELECOM

HB25-1056

Local Government Permitting Wireless Telecommunications Facilities

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1056>

The act establishes permit review timelines of 90 days for all wireless services facility applications and 150 days for applications that are not for collocation or small cell facilities. Upon notice to the local government, an application is deemed approved if not approved or rejected by the local government in the timeframe. The government must identify any incompleteness in applications within 30 days. The act allows tolling for responses to timely requests for information,

correcting incomplete applications, and (for up to 45 days) if the government lacks resources to review both a collocation or small cell facility application and an application for affordable or attainable housing, renewable energy, government projects, or other projects with a legally mandated review timeline. The act retains local authority for placement and construction and traffic management. Finally, the act allows providers to modify, remove, discontinue, or replace wireless service facilities and equipment that are not a substantial change without a permit. **Effective: Jan. 1, 2026.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1080

Wireless Telephone Infrastructure Deployment Incentives

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1080>

The act authorizes a county, city and county, school district, or special district to negotiate incentive payments or credits with taxpayers that establish or expand a qualified communication services facility that serves an unserved or underserved area. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

BUILDING CODES

HB25-1060

Electronic Fence Detection Systems

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1060>

The act purports to grant authority to local governments to impose installation or operational requirements on “electronic fence detection systems” as part of alarm system permitting. The act prohibits requiring additional permits for such systems beyond what would be required for other alarm systems. The act allows increased local regulation and prohibition when such systems are in residential areas. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1077

Backflow Prevention Devices Requirements

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1077>

The act corrects a 2024 law that limited all work on backflow prevention devices to licensed plumbers. The act reinstates the exemption from licensure for inspection, testing, and repair of backflow prevention devices. The act requires an identification tag to be placed on the devices when work is performed. **Effective: March 28, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1273

Residential Building Stair Modernization

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1273>

The act requires subject jurisdictions to adopt building codes by Jan. 1, 2027, that allow a single exit for a 5-story building

with only 4 dwelling units per story. Subject jurisdictions have a population of 100,000 or more, and are served by an accredited fire department or district. The act includes specific conditions that must be met for a building to qualify. The act appears to restrict local government from changing the legal status of the building and permits the rebuilding of a damaged structure under the building code that existed when constructed, with some limitations. The act requires that the Colorado Professional Firefighter’s Association and any local International Association of Firefighters affiliate be placed on the list of persons to receive notice of meetings discussing the adoption of compliant codes. **Effective: May 13, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-002

Regional Building Codes for Factory-Built Structures

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-002>

The act vests jurisdiction in the State Housing Board, and preempts all local authority, regarding the regulation of the construction and installation of factory-built structures (including tiny homes). By July 1, 2026, the board must establish regional building code standards accounting for local climatic and geographic conditions and addressing, at a minimum, wind shear, snow load, wildfire risk, thermal zone, radon mitigation, or automatic fire sprinkler requirements. The preemptive provisions of the act are effective after the adoption of the codes. The board standards will include plumbing and electrical codes. Local governments can continue to inspect structures for the Division of Housing and third parties can review and approve design and construction plans for the division.

The act modifies the existing advisory committee to include 21 members (up from 15), now including four building code officials to represent climate zones 4-7. The advisory committee also includes regulated interests, like installers and sellers. The committee is tasked with recommending building codes for factory-built structures and regulations for manufacturers, installers, sellers, and contractors. The recommendations will be presented to the General Assembly in 2026.

The act amends county and municipal zoning authority to expressly prohibit standards for factory-built structures that are more restrictive than would apply to site-built homes in the same residential zones. This includes zoning regulations, subdivision regulations, size standards, setbacks, requirements for permanent foundations, and others. **Effective: May 8, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

See also: **ACCESSIBILITY** (HB25-1030: Accessibility Standards in Building Codes)

Criminal JUSTICE

CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC OFFENSES

HB25-1034

Changes to Dangerous Dog Statute

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1034>

The act expands protections under the dangerous dog statute to impose criminal liability on a dog owner whose dog inflicts serious bodily injuries on a veterinary health care worker, dog groomer, humane agency personnel, professional dog handler, or trainer in the performance of their duties. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1039

Commercial Vehicle Muffler Requirements

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1039>

The act requires that all commercial vehicles have mufflers that can be visually inspected, unless documentation available to a peace officer shows certain details regarding the installation of a muffler. The requirement was previously limited to vehicles with engine compression brake devices. Courts cannot impose fines if the owner or operator provides documentation regarding the muffler and must reduce fines by half if the muffler is installed within 30 days after the citation. **Effective: July 1, 2027.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1062

Penalty for Theft of Firearms

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1062>

The act makes theft of a firearm a class 6 felony regardless of the firearm's value. **Effective: June 2, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1133

Requirements for Sale of Firearms Ammunition

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1133>

The act creates new requirements for the retail sale of ammunition, a violation of which is punishable as a civil infraction or, for a second or subsequent offense, as a class 1 misdemeanor. The act also creates requirements for the retail delivery of ammunition, including notice to delivery providers, labeling prohibitions, and age verification for delivery, violations of which are punishable as class 1 misdemeanors. **Effective: July 1, 2026.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1171

Possession of Weapon by Previous Offender Crimes

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1171>

The act adds motor vehicle theft in the first degree to the list of offenses that prohibit a person from possessing, using, or carrying a firearm. After at least ten years have passed since the conclusion of the criminal proceedings or since the person's release from supervision, whichever is later, the person can petition the court for an order stating that the weapon prohibition does not apply to them. **Effective: May 19, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1180

Prohibiting Pet Animal Sales in Public Spaces

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1180>

The act makes it a class 2 misdemeanor to sell, offer or advertise for sale or adoption, barter, or give away a pet animal on any public street, park, recreation area, parking lot, or other public space. The offense does not apply to pet animal facilities licensed under Article 80, livestock sales, transporting pet animals for certain exhibitions or competitions, and hunting dogs. The act makes clear that this new offense does not preclude municipalities from enacting laws regulating the same conduct. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

HB25-1238

Gun Show Requirements

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1238>

The act requires gun show promoters to prepare a security plan and submit it to each local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the gun show at least 14 days in advance. The act places several requirements on gun show promoters, violations of which are a class 2 misdemeanor; second or subsequent offenses are a class 1 misdemeanor. Under the act, a person must satisfy certain qualifications to participate in a gun show as a gun show vendor and must follow specific requirements during any participation in the show. Unlawful participation as a gun show vendor and unlawful gun show vendor activity are class 2 misdemeanors; second or subsequent offenses are class 1 misdemeanors. **Effective: Jan. 1, 2026.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1290

Transit Worker Assault & Funding for Training

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1290>

The act amends the criminal offense of harassment to include wrongful interference with a transit worker performing a lawful duty. Transit workers include bus and train operators, conductors, ticket inspectors, station customer assistants, and maintenance, inspection, and cleaning personnel. The crime is included in the Victim Rights Act. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-003

Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-003>

As of Aug. 1, 2026, the manufacture and sale of certain semiautomatic firearms with a detachable ammunition magazine is prohibited with several enumerated exclusions including transfers to individuals residing in another state, a federally licensed firearm dealer, law enforcement agencies, peace officers, the department of corrections, armored vehicle businesses, military forces, individuals who have completed certain firearms safety courses, and more. A violation of the act is a class 2 misdemeanor; a second or subsequent offense is a class 6 felony.

The act adds this new offense to the list of offenses that can subject an individual to a charge for possession of a weapon by a previous offender. The Department of Revenue is directed to revoke the state firearms dealer permit of a dealer that violates the act, and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation is directed to deny the transfer of a firearm to a person convicted of a violation of the act within five years of the transfer. The act also modifies the prohibition on sale, transfer, and possession of large-capacity magazines to be a class 1 misdemeanor instead of a class 2 misdemeanor. Current law prohibits possession of a dangerous weapon; the act replaces machine gun conversion devices with rapid-fire devices in the list of dangerous weapons. **Effective: April 10, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-060

Repeated Phone Calls Obstruction of Government Operations

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-060>

The act expands the conduct that constitutes the crime of obstructing governmental operations to include repeated contact or calls to a public safety emergency call center or entity and the call is not for legitimate reporting of a public safety concern, emergency, or to seek assistance. **Effective: Oct. 1, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-061

Federally Recognized Tribes & Construction of Laws

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-061>

The act establishes rules for the construction of laws passed by the General Assembly and specifies that a law does not apply to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe or the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe unless the law clearly and expressly states that it applies. With regard to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the act further specifies that the civil and criminal laws of Colorado are presumed to apply within a municipality to Indians and other persons, but this does not limit the concurrent jurisdiction of the Tribe over the conduct of Indians within a municipality. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-168

Prevention of Wildlife Trafficking

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-168>

The act adds species from Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to the wildlife covered by Colorado's wildlife trafficking laws. A violation of such state law is a class 1 misdemeanor; certain factual circumstances can give rise to the offense being a class 4 or 5 felony. **Effective: July 1, 2026.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-281

Increase Penalties Careless Driving

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-281>

The act changes the offense for careless driving that causes death being a class 1 misdemeanor to also include careless driving that results in serious bodily injury; moreover, each person injured or killed is a separate violation. The act adds careless driving resulting in serious bodily injury to the list of Victim Rights Act crimes. **Effective: June 2, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-288

Intimate Digital Depictions Criminal & Civil Actions

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-288>

The act creates a new civil cause of action against a person who discloses or threatens to disclose a realistic intimate digital depiction of another individual that was created, altered, or produced by generative AI, image editing software, or computer-generated means. The act also modifies the criminal offenses of posting a private image for harassment and posting a private image for pecuniary gain to include posting of intimate digital depictions of another individual. While this offense is typically a class 1 misdemeanor, it constitutes a class 6 felony if the disclosure posed an imminent and serious threat to the depicted individual's safety or the safety of their family and the actor knew or should have known of the threat. Finally, the act modifies the criminal offenses of posting and possessing a private image by a juvenile to include digital depictions of a juvenile. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

See also: **REGULATED SUBSTANCES** (HB25-1063: FDA-Approved Crystalline Polymorph Psilocybin Use); **TRANSPORTATION** (HB25-1281: Title Register & Drive Kei Vehicles)

LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUNDING

SB25-310

Proposition 130 Implementation

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-310>

The act implements 2024 Proposition 130's authorization of \$350 million in law enforcement funding by establishing a formula for funding over 10 years through the Peace Officer Training and Support Fund. All local law enforcement agencies are eligible for funding for "permissible purposes," which include initial and continuing education and training for peace officers and compensation for peace officers, which is pay to a peace officer, reimbursement for tuition for a training academy, and bonuses for hiring, rehiring, merit, or retention. To obtain the funding, agencies must submit a certification to the Department of Public Safety containing specific information, including a resolution or ordinance that it will only expend the money for a permissible purpose and will not supplant other money. Law enforcement agencies must report the proper use of funding in the jurisdiction's annual audit, which it must also provide to the Department, or report separately if audits are not required. The act also establishes the process for distributing the first responder death benefits. **Effective: June 2, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

See also: **FINANCE** (SB25-317: Transfer Cash Fund Investment Earnings to General Fund)

LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

HB25-1049

Communication Rights for Persons in Custody

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1049>

The act adds an attorney's authorized representative to the list of individuals who a person in custody can communicate with as part of the right to consult with an attorney. The act also requires a peace officer or person employed at a place of confinement to provide an attorney or their authorized representative the ability to initiate communication with a person in custody by telephone, interactive audiovisual conferencing, or any other reasonable method of electronic communication. The communication must be private, unrecorded, and free of charge. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1087

Confidentiality Requirements Mental Health Support

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1087>

The act prohibits the disclosure of confidential information shared during a peer support interaction, subject to certain exemptions, by a peer support team member. The act clarifies that peer support team members are not liable for damages in civil actions based on whether or not they disclose information. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1098

Automated Protection Order Victim Notification System

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1098>

Subject to sufficient appropriations or other funding, the act requires the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Public Safety to establish an automated protection order notification system to provide a protected person, the protected person's immediate family, and other interested persons with information about a protection order issued under section 18-1-1001 or article 14 of title 13. Interested persons include law enforcement, judicial officers, and advocates. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1112

Local Authorities Enforce Vehicle Registration

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1112>

The act allows local authorities to enforce state vehicle registration requirements under their local code. A court may dismiss a registration violation if the vehicle was unregistered for not more than four months at the time of the violation, the owner registered the vehicle prior to the first court date, and, if the case is in municipal court, the owner pays a \$30 administrative dismissal fee. Peace officers must notify the defendant of the opportunity for dismissal if the registration has been expired for less than four months. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1114

Defense Review of Tangible Object for Criminal Trial

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1114>

The act gives defense counsel the right to review a tangible object in a criminal case at least 35 days before trial and create confidential work product following their review unless the object is sexually exploitative material. A law enforcement representative must be present at the viewing and may record an evidence viewing by prosecutors or defense attorneys to ensure chain of custody, integrity, or safety of the evidence. Law enforcement must provide notice to the prosecution if recording occurs. The act also prohibits law enforcement from using body-worn cameras during defense evidence viewings. **Effective: July 1, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1136

Peace Officer Conduct Database

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1136>

The act expands the categories of information relating to a peace officer's conduct that the POST Board must include in an online, searchable database. These include any termination for cause, resignation or retirement while under investigation, or resignation or retirement following an incident that leads to an investigation within six months, and resignation in lieu of termination for cause. The act clarifies the reporting requirements for law enforcement agencies and includes

a certification requirement for the accuracy of reports; law enforcement agencies may be subject to fines and referral for investigation for knowing or willful failures to submit information or for the submission of false or inaccurate information. The POST Board is authorized to obtain information regarding incidents that could be included in a report and makes the law enforcement agency liable for attorney fees and costs in the event of a legal challenge. The act requires the POST Board to establish an appeal process for peace officers whose conduct is included in the database.

A law enforcement agency investigating an incident that could result in reporting must notify the peace officer of the agency's duty to report and the consequences of reporting. The act prohibits a settlement agreement that includes an agreement to not report.

The act reduces the requirement to obtain a pre-employment waiver for accessing an applicant's prior employment files from all candidates that are interviewed to only candidates that receive a conditional job offer. Failure to receive records from an agency in response to a waiver must be reported to the POST Board and can result in a one-year loss of funding or fines.

The act requires that for permanent revocation of a peace officer's certification for civil liability for unlawful physical or failure to intervene, the force involved must be excessive or unconstitutional. Otherwise, revocation for at least one year is authorized.

The act provides that an individual's POST certification remains valid when working for a law enforcement agency in a non-peace-officer role so long as they maintain their annual training requirements certification. **Effective: May 31, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1148

Criminal Protection Order & Protection Order Violation

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1148>

The act modifies procedures for criminal protection orders issued under C.R.S. § 18-1-1001, contents of such protection orders, and crimes related to violations of such protection orders. Under current law sentences for violation of a protection order must run consecutively with the underlying crime; the act limits this provision to only certain crimes. Under the act, peace officers are authorized to exercise discretion about whether to arrest or issue a summons for certain types of protection order violations, rather than being mandated to arrest for those violations. **Effective: July 1, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1181

Colorado Rangers Law Enforcement Shared Reserve

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1181>

The act clarifies that Colorado rangers must be POST certified and that their duties are limited by statute. The act also gives the Colorado Rangers Law Enforcement Shared Reserve authority to authorize compensation of Colorado rangers who

are deployed for an extended period as a peace officer for a member jurisdiction. **Effective: March 26, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1183

Colorimetric Field Drug Test Working Group

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1183>

The act creates a working group to make findings and recommendations about the use of colorimetric field drug tests in the various stages of criminal proceedings and in carceral settings. One seat on the working group is reserved for the president of the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police or their designee. The working group must report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly judiciary committees by Dec. 1, 2025. **Effective: June 2, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1188

Mandatory Reporter Task Force Recommendations

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1188>

The act specifies that mandatory reporters must report abuse or neglect as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 24 hours after receiving the information. The act specifies that the reporting requirement does not apply if the reporter learns of the suspected abuse or neglect outside of their professional capacity. The act removes victim's advocates from the list of mandatory reporters, effective May 31, 2025. Entities that employ mandatory reports are authorized to develop protocols regarding the process for reporting. **Effective: Sept. 1, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1230

Changes Violation Driver Overtaking School Bus

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1230>

The act permits a school district's board of education to approve the installation and utilization of an automated vehicle identification system (AVIS) on the district's school bus to detect motor vehicles unlawfully overtaking a stopped school bus. School districts may work with the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality to install and operate AVIS on school buses if they wish to do so. A school district must enter into a memorandum of understanding with one or more law enforcement agencies if it installs and operates AVIS on school buses. **Effective: May 24, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1248

Protect Students from Restraint & Seclusion Act

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1248>

The act prohibits the use of restraint and seclusion by public schools except under certain circumstances. The prohibition on restraint does not apply to: (1) peace officers working in a public school so long as the officer receives certain training and has

made a referral to a law enforcement agency and is making an arrest, and (2) school resource officers and peace officers acting in their official capacity on a public school's property, vehicle, or activity or event if there is a danger to the student or others, or during a custodial arrest that requires transport. Schools that use restraint or seclusion must train their employees and agents and document instances of such use. **Effective: May 24, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1275

Forensic Science Integrity

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1275>

As of July 1, 2025, the act requires a crime laboratory employee to report witnessed or discovered knowing misconduct or a significant event, as defined in the act, to the director of the laboratory or to their immediate supervisor, who must report to the director. If a director receives a report, they must investigate and compile a list of all cases worked on by that employee; following the investigation, the director must issue a final report. If the investigation involved a pending case, the director must notify the district attorney with jurisdiction. The director must also provide the report to the district attorney and, if the misconduct is sustained, all discoverable materials. All investigative records are considered criminal justice records. For any wrongful actions between July 1, 2014, and July 1, 2025, where the investigation resulted in criminal allegations or a sustained internal affairs action, the director must, as soon as possible but no later than Sept. 1, 2025, prepare a report and provide it to district attorneys with jurisdiction over those cases.

The act requires a district attorney who is notified about an investigation and receives a report to take certain actions to notify defendants and victims. The act provides for certain processes in the criminal proceedings when there is misconduct. **Effective: June 2, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-009

Recognition of Tribal Court Orders

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-009>

The act requires state courts to give full faith and credit to an arrest warrant issued by a tribal court of a federally recognized tribe. Peace officers may apprehend individuals identified in tribal warrants if they verify the validity of the warrant and confirm it permits extradition. Arrested individuals may be transferred to the tribal jurisdiction or held in the county detention facility. Under the act, law enforcement agencies must also recognize behavioral health commitment orders issued by federally recognized tribes. **Effective: May 5, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-070

Online Marketplaces & Third-Party Sellers

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-070>

The act requires an online marketplace to alert a law enforcement agency if the online marketplace knows, or should have known, that a third-party seller is selling or attempting to sell stolen goods to Colorado consumers. Online marketplaces are required to establish a mechanism and policies to facilitate this detection and notification. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-129

Legally Protected Health-Care Activity Protections

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-129>

The act provides additional protections to individuals concerning legally protected health-care activities. As it relates to law enforcement, the act requires any person requesting a subpoena to make certain affirmation under penalty of perjury; however, these new subpoena requirements do not prohibit the investigation of criminal activity that may involve a legally protected health-care activity so long as information relating to a medical procedure performed on an individual is not shared with a federal agency or an agency or individual from another state for the purpose of enforcing another state's abortion law. The act also clarifies that the prohibition on providing information or expending or using resources in furtherance of any out-of-state investigation or, to the extent constitutionally permissible, any federal investigation, seeking to impose liability or sanctions for engaging in a legally protection health-care activity applies to all public entities. **Effective: April 24, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-205

Firearm Serial Number Check Request Procedure

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-205>

Beginning no later than July 1, 2026, the act requires every sheriff's office and police department to conduct a firearm serial number check for a federal firearms licensee that makes a request prior to purchasing a firearm from an individual. The law enforcement agency responsible for the check is based on the location of the federal firearms licensee's place of business. Law enforcement agencies must establish a system to receive and respond to these requests. Checks must be completed within three days of the request and must include information about whether the gun is reported stolen, lost, or involved in an open criminal investigation. Agencies are authorized to charge a fee for the actual and indirect costs of performing the firearm serial number check. Under the act, a firearms dealer with a state permit must report to law enforcement when a person sells or attempts to sell a firearm that is stolen, lost, or involved in an open criminal investigation. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-240

Electronic Discovery in Criminal Cases Task Force

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-240>

The act creates the Electronic Discovery in Criminal Cases Task Force consisting of 13 members to study the costs and management of electronic discovery in criminal cases. One task force seat is reserved for an employee of a police department with knowledge of electronic discovery. **Effective: April 28, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-304

Measures to Address Sexual Assault Kit Backlog

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-304>

The act creates the Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Evidence Review Board, which includes a representative of the Association of Chiefs of Police, to review and monitor effectiveness of current protocols, standards, and training practices for responding to sexual assault; develop recommendations for improvement; ensure victim-centered implementation of forensic exams; review data regarding needs, priorities, and services for responding to sexual assault; monitor effectiveness of related laws; and make recommendations. The board must submit a preliminary report by Dec. 15, 2025, and a final report by Nov. 1, 2026, and each year thereafter.

The act adds to the Victim's Rights Act that law enforcement must notify the victim every 90 days when the agency has not yet received the results of the medical forensic evidence DNA analysis from the crime laboratory. Crime laboratories must endeavor to analyze and upload the information into the system within 60 days of receipt of the evidence. **Effective: June 2, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

See also: **EMPLOYMENT** (HB25-1031: Law Enforcement Whistleblower Protection); **MISCELLANEOUS GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS** (SB25-276: Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status); **PUBLIC HEALTH** (SB25-164: Opioid Antagonist Availability & State Board of Health)

ELECTIONS

HB25-1225

Freedom from Intimidation in Elections Act

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1225>

Similar to Section 11(b) of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, the act prohibits any person, acting under color of law or otherwise, from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or attempting to do any of those things to an individual for voting, attempting to vote, urging or aiding a person to vote or attempt to vote, exercising powers or duties to administer elections, or their status as a past or present participation in election administration. Intent is not required. The act creates a presumption of intimidation by carrying a visible firearm, imitation firearm, or toy firearm. The presumption does not apply to law enforcement officers acting in the scope of their official duties or security guards acting within the scope of their authority. A plaintiff must allege more than the possession of a holstered firearm by a law enforcement officer or security guard, but their possession of a firearm may be considered.

The attorney general, an aggrieved individual, election official, or the secretary of state can enforce the act. An aggrieved individual can recover attorney fees and costs. As part of the relief provided, a court can enjoin a person from carrying a firearm in certain government areas and near polling places, count facilities, and ballot drop boxes. **Effective: May 12, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-001

Colorado Voting Rights Act

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-001>

The act primarily creates the "Colorado Voting Rights Act" (CoVRA) purporting to declare voter turnout and the prevention of discrimination in voting as matters of statewide concern. CoVRA prohibits counties and municipalities from engaging in "voter suppression" and "voter dilution." The act prohibits qualifications for electors or prerequisites to voting in counties and municipalities based on actual or perceived gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation or confinement in a local jail.

Voter suppression: "Voter suppression" means an act that results in or is intended to result in a material disparity between members of a protected class and other eligible elections relating to voter participation, access to voting, or the opportunity or ability to participate in the political process. The plaintiff must show voter suppression by a preponderance of the evidence, shifting the burden to the government to demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the challenged action is necessary to further an important and particularized governmental interest. The plaintiff can override this interest by showing through a preponderance of the evidence that another practice could "comparably further" the interest with a "smaller disparity."

Voter dilution: “Voter dilution” means a method of election that has the effect of, or is intended to, disparately impair the opportunity or ability of members of a protected class to elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of elections, due to dilution of the vote of members of the protected class. Unlike Federal vote dilution claims, CoVRA vote dilution can be proved by showing that either: 1) elections exhibit “polarized voting” (a divergence in candidate or political preferences or electoral choices) that disparately impairs equal opportunity or ability to nominate or elect candidates, shown only by statistics and not considering any cause or reason for the disparity; or 2) the “totality of the circumstances” shows that equal opportunity or ability to nominate or elect candidates and another method of election would mitigate the disparate impairment, including certain potentially relevant evidence. Relevant factors under the Federal VRA may be considered but are not required to be proven.

Enforcement: CoVRA can be enforced by the Attorney General or a broad class of private actors in the district where the violation occurred, or in Denver. Preliminary relief can be sought within 120 days of an election according to traditional preliminary injunction principles, but the remedy must not unduly disrupt the election. CoVRA authorizes courts to fashion remedies that are inconsistent with state law and prohibits deference to the local government’s preferred solution. CoVRA authorizes attorney fees and costs for prevailing plaintiffs but only grants the same right to defendants for frivolous claims.

Pre-suit notice: Before suit, the local government must be sent a notice describing the violation except where seeking preliminary relief or no action was taken in response to another notice by any person on a substantially similar violation. Suit cannot be filed until 60 days after the notice if the local government takes no action; suit must be delayed for 90 days if the local government passes a resolution to identify a remedy or 180 days if the remedy requires an election. If the local government implements a solution, the aggrieved person must be reimbursed for the cost of work product to support the notice. CoVRA authorizes a local government to seek court approval to implement a solution that would otherwise be precluded by law.

Non-CoVRA provisions: The act requires certain municipalities to provide multilingual ballot access by either: 1) creating dual-language ballots; or 2) separate minority language ballots and sample ballots and minority language notices for mail ballots. These requirements apply to municipalities with populations of 3,000 or more that are partially or wholly in counties covered by multilingual ballot requirements.

The act requires political subdivisions to submit election results and other information to the Secretary of State, who must post the information on its website.

The act also modifies provisions of the Uniform Election Code regarding identification issued by tribal or federal agencies certifying tribal membership. The act also requires certain

facilities providing residential or day care to adults to post notices regarding elections. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025** (applies to elections and election-related activities on or after Jan. 1, 2026). Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

See also: **PUBLIC SAFETY** (HB25-1195: First Responder Voter Registration Record Confidentiality)

EMPLOYMENT

HB25-1031

Law Enforcement Whistleblower Protection

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1031>

The act prohibits taking adverse employment action or retaliating against a peace officer (excluding state-employed peace officers) who in good faith discloses information to the proper supervising authority that the officer reasonably believes shows a danger to public health or safety or an alleged violation of law by another peace officer. The act does not protect disclosures the officer knows to be false or disclosures for which they have a reckless disregard for the truth. In addition to traditional adverse employment actions, the act specifically includes suspension, creation of a hostile work environment, corrective action or reprimand, employment ratings that result in loss of pay or adverse effect on eligibility for promotion or assignment, laying off, reducing work hours, and knowingly providing false information to negatively affect future employment opportunities. The act excludes administrative procedures and objective procedures to distribute assignments or duties or otherwise meet the operational needs of the employer.

Before bringing an action, the officer must exhaust internal written administrative procedures provided to the employee that comply with the act. Employers have 180 days to complete the administrative process. The act authorizes broad relief including reinstatement, back pay, compensatory damages, and attorney fees and costs. The employer has an affirmative defense that the employer would have taken the same action on a legitimate basis.

Law enforcement agencies must provide workplace training or post a notice. If training is provided, it must be provided to new employees during employee orientation. Employers must designate a person or department to investigate allegations of internal misconduct. **Effective: June 3, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1300

Workers' Compensation Benefits Proof of Entitlement

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1300>

The act repeals the current requirement that an employer provide a list of four health care providers from which injured workers may select a provider to attend to a workplace injury. Instead, employer must notify injured employees of their right to designate a treating physician from the list of Level I and Level II accredited physicians maintained by CDLE.

The act requires that the treating physician be located within 70 miles of the employee's home or workplace, or within 100 miles if there is limited availability of accredited physicians closer to the employee. If an injured employee fails to designate a primary physician, the employer or the employer's insurer may select one from the list of accredited physicians.

The act mandates that an employer or the employer's insurer use the utilization standards established by CDLE when responding to a request for authorization from a treating physician. If the employer or insurer fails to act in accordance with these standards, CDLE may deem the physician's services reasonable and necessary, and require the employer or insurer to pay for the services. **Effective: Jan. 1, 2028.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

SB25-144

Changes Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance Program

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-144>

The act modifies the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program (FAMLI) to allow an additional 12 weeks of leave when a child is receiving inpatient neonatal intensive care. The act sets FAMLI premiums at .0088% of wages per employee in 2026 and permits the director of the Division of Family and Medical Leave Insurance to establish a premium rate in the following years.

Effective: Aug. 6, 2025. Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

FINANCE

HB25-1061

Community Schoolyards Grant Program

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1061>

The act creates the Community Schoolyards Grant Program to address inequities in underserved and underfunded schools and communities, specifically those impacted by the development, processing, or energy conversion of minerals and mineral fuels. The grant program is funded by money from the Local Government Severance Tax Fund and will be used to provide grants for planning and design of community schoolyards and for capital construction of community schoolyards. Local governments and school districts are eligible to apply for these grant funds, subject to

certain requirements. The Division of Local Government must implement timelines for the programs by Jan. 15, 2026, and provide a report to the General Assembly summarizing the grant recipient reports by Jan. 15, 2028. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1224

Revised Uniform Unclaimed Property Act Modifications

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1224>

Among other things, the act removes the opt-out exemption for local governments from the state's unclaimed property statute (C.R.S. § 38-13-1504) and its implementing regulations (8 CCR 1508-1). Unclaimed property includes interests in intangible property held by municipalities like tax refunds, utility deposits, wages, fee rebates, and gift certificates. The loss of the exemption means that municipalities must comply with the Revised Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, C.R.S. § 38-13-101 to -1504, including providing notices to apparent owners of property presumed abandoned and notices to the state treasurer. The act allows local governments to claim their own unclaimed property. **Effective: June 4, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

SB25-023

Local Government Audit Exemption Thresholds

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-023>

The act increases the thresholds to seek an exemption from annual audit requirements for fiscal years commencing Jan. 1, 2025, or later, to include local governments with neither revenues nor expenditures exceeding \$200,000 (up from \$100,000) or with revenues or expenditures between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000 (up from \$100,000 to \$750,000). **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

SB25-081

Treasurer's Office

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-081>

The act modifies the State Public Financing Cash Fund and creates a new special purpose authority – the Building Urgent Infrastructure and Leveraging Dollars Authority. The authority consists of thirteen members, including one municipal representative, and is intended to help finance certain infrastructure projects not within the purview of the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority. Among other powers, the authority may issue bonds, invest and deposit money, and finance or participate in the financing of eligible projects. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

SB25-257

Modify General Fund Transfers to State Highway Fund

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-257>

Among other things, the act eliminates \$7 million in annual funding (from 2025-2031) from the Revitalizing Main Streets program. **Effective: June 4, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

SB25-268

Changes to Money in the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-268>

The act reduces allocations to local governments from state retail marijuana sales tax revenue from 10% to 3.5%, beginning July 1, 2025. The Joint Budget Committee is required to review the percentage of retail marijuana state sales tax revenue that goes to local governments sometime between Nov. 1, 2027, and April 1, 2028, to determine whether the percentage is still appropriate. **Effective: May 30, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

SB25-308

Medicaid Services Related to Federal Authorizations

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-308>

The act transfers funding from various programs to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing for Medicaid purposes, including \$2,218,592 from Proposition 123's Affordable Housing Support Fund related to affordable home ownership and persons experiencing homelessness and \$3,585,300 from the Housing Development Grant Fund for affordable housing construction grants and loans. **Effective: May 30, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-317

Transfer Cash Fund Investment Earnings to General Fund

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-317>

The act transfers funds and sweeps interest for one year from various funds that provide grants to municipalities and other entities into the general fund. These include the Just Transition Grant Fund (\$831,645); the Housing Development Grant Fund (\$2,821,157); Colorado Heritage Communities Fund (\$105,306); the Multidisciplinary Crime Prevention and Crisis Intervention Grant Fund (\$192,326); the Wildfire Mitigation Capacity Development Fund (\$48,571); the Law Enforcement Workforce Recruitment, Retention, and Tuition Grant Fund (\$119,974); the Geothermal Energy Grant Fund (\$338,202); the Streamlined Solar Permitting and Inspection Grant Program (\$27,371); the Community Revitalization Grant Fund (\$13,468); the Natural Resource Damage Recovery Fund (\$624,617); the Transit-oriented Communities Grant Fund (\$634,662); the Accessory Dwelling Unit Fee Reduction and Encouragement Grant Fund (\$49,741); the Water Supply Reserve Fund (\$1,137,987); the Local Government Severance Tax Fund (\$8,639,093); and the Limited Gaming Fund (\$1,755,154). **Effective: June 3, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

See also: **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** (SB25-310: Proposition 130 Implementation); **HOUSING** (SB25-313: Proposition 123 Revenue Uses); **PUBLIC SAFETY** (SB25-256: Funds for Support of Digital Trunked Radio System); **TRANSPORTATION** (HB25-1110: Railroad Crossing Maintenance Costs); **UTILITIES** (SB25-037: Coal Transition Grants; SB25-068: Municipal Utility Unclaimed Utility Deposit Program)

Government Liability & IMMUNITY

HB25-1053

Landowner Immunity for Emergency Access to Property

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1053>

The act grants immunity from civil liability to a landowner, including a government landowner, who in good faith and without compensation grants access to their property for exit and entry in connection with an emergency. The immunity excludes gross negligence and willful and wanton conduct. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1239

Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1239>

The act modifies multiple provisions of the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. Most significantly, the act equalizes damages provisions of several sections related to disability discrimination to allow for a court order of compliance, attorney fees and costs, and either actual monetary damages and noneconomic damages or a statutory fine of \$5,000 per plaintiff for each violation. Noneconomic damages are capped at \$50,000 if the defendant corrects the violation within 30 days of a complaint unless the defendant knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly caused the violation; good faith efforts to correct the violation can add up to 120 additional days. For discrimination against employees discriminated against for complying with the provisions of C.R.S. § 24-34-701 et seq., the noneconomic damages cap applies only to small businesses (with 25 or fewer employees and no more than \$3.5 million dollars in annual gross income). The act also makes it a discriminatory practice to discriminate against a person for requesting reasonable accommodations for a disability and updates requirements for testing accommodations. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

See also: **ACCESSIBILITY** (HB25-1017: Community Integration Plan Individuals with Disabilities; HB25-1030: Accessibility Standards in Building Codes; HB25-1152: Tech Accessibility Liability Contractor); **EMPLOYMENT** (HB25-1031: Law Enforcement Whistleblower Protection); **MISCELLANEOUS GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS** (SB25-276: Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status)

HOUSING

HB25-1006

School District Solar Garden Lease Term

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1006>

The act permits school districts to lease or rent district property for any term of years for solar fields, energy storage systems, or affordable housing. Affordable housing projects are subject to appropriate local governmental land use approval processes.

Effective: Aug. 6, 2025. Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1108

Prohibitions in Rental Agreements Due to Death

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1108>

The act prohibits clauses in rental agreements that, if the agreement is terminated because of the tenant's death, would require liquidated damages; accelerate rent; require repayment of concessions or discounts; or impose other fees or penalties for early termination. The act permits a landlord to take possession without court permission if the estate surrenders the premises or, after 30 days, rent is unpaid or substantially all property has been removed. The act permits the landlord to retain a security deposit for damages resulting from the tenant's death. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1168

Housing Protections for Victim-Survivors

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1168>

The act adjusts processes and exceptions relating to the unlawful detention actions, security deposits, and actions taken against a tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, including standards for establishing that status. When the unlawful detention relates to nonpayment or late rent, the act requires a landlord to provide an acceptable repayment plan within three days of receiving proof of status. A demand for rent or possession must include notice that a repayment plan is available if the tenant has experienced unlawful sexual behavior, stalking, or domestic violence or abuse that has caused the missed rent payment. The act prohibits a tenant from being "unfairly penalized or suffer the undue loss of housing" based on the acts of a person responsible for such abuse, including limitations on the retention of security deposits. A rental agreement cannot authorize any adverse action against a tenant for contacting police for assistance with such crimes. Certain provisions take effect Aug. 6, 2025.

Effective: May 22, 2025. Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1207

Pet Ownership Residential Housing Structures

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1207>

The act requires that each housing development receiving financing from DOLA's Division of Housing on or after Jan.

1, 2026, authorize tenants of affordable housing to own or keep two pet animals, subject to reasonable conditions and applicable state and local laws. Reasonable conditions do not include breed or weight restrictions. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1236

Residential Tenant Screening

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1236>

The act specifies that a prospective tenant using a portable tenant screening report does not need to include a credit history report, a credit score, or an adverse credit event. The act repeals the requirement that a landlord can require a screening report to be made directly available. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.**

Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1240

Protections for Tenants with Housing Subsidies

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1240>

Following current federal requirements, the act requires 30-day notice to vacate before a landlord can require a tenant to vacate rented property that participates in a covered housing program or rural housing voucher program or has a federally backed mortgage loan. The act also prohibits landlords from failing to make reasonable efforts to timely respond to requests for information and documentation for rental assistance applications or to cooperate in good faith with tenants applying for rental assistance. The act establishes minimum penalties for discriminatory housing practices and other damages. **Effective: May 29, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1249

Tenant Security Deposit Protections

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1249>

The act prohibits retaining a security deposit for preexisting damage or defective conditions. The act clarifies that "normal wear and tear" can include damage or uncleanliness, except uncleanliness that renders a unit substantially less clean than when the lease began. The act permits mailing notice of retaining a security deposit by email and may require a walk-through inspection upon request. The act clarifies when a landlord wrongfully or in bad faith withholds a security deposit. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1272

Construction Defects & Middle Market Housing

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1272>

The act requires that the "fast-track approval process" required to be implemented by the end of 2026 by jurisdictions that filed commitments under 2022's Proposition 123 (C.R.S. 29-32-101 et seq.) must apply to for-sale multifamily condominium projects that include at least 50% affordable units. Primarily, however,

the act creates a “multifamily constructive incentive program” that builders of multifamily, attached housing, or two or more units can participate in. Participation requires specific warranties for defects and third-party inspections. A construction defects action against a participant must include a certificate of review by a third-party professional and requires actual damages of specified categories and severity. The act establishes a statute of limitations for claims, specific defenses of construction professionals, and settlement procedures. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

SB25-020

Tenant and Landlord Law Enforcement

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-020>

Among other things, the act authorizes counties and municipalities to independently bring civil actions to enforce tenant and landlord relations matters covered by Article 12 of Title 38. The act requires that any contract with a private attorney to bring such an action specifies an hourly rate not to exceed \$500 per hour; up to 10% of any recovery can be used to cover the cost of fees. The act establishes a receivership mechanism related to violations of public health codes and safety laws applicable to multifamily residential property.

Effective: Aug. 6, 2025. Lobbyist: Bev Stables

SB25-313

Proposition 123 Revenue Uses

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-313>

The act adds eligible uses for homeless services funding created by 2022’s Proposition 123 to now include state capital construction needs at the Fort Lyon and Ridge View Supportive Residential Communities. The Division of Housing and Division of Local Government in DOLA are also authorized to use funding for administrative costs. Finally, the act limits scenarios where the General Assembly could be found to use Proposition 123 funding to supplant other state funding for affordable housing, which is prohibited by Proposition 123. **Effective: May 30, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

See also: **BUILDING CODES** (HB25-1273: Residential Building Stair Modernization; SB25-002: Regional Building Codes for Factory-Built Structures); **FINANCE** (SB25-308: Medicaid Services Related to Federal Authorizations; SB25-317: Transfer Cash Fund Investment Earnings to General Fund); **SPECIAL DISTRICTS** (HB25-1211: Tap Fees Imposed by Special Districts)

LAND USE

HB25-1023

Local Government Review of Fencing Projects

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1023>

If a local government opts into the requirements of the act, on or after July 1, 2025, an application to install or substantially repair a contiguous fence in Sangre de Cristo Land Grant lands must be submitted to the local government with jurisdiction over the project; if more than one government has jurisdiction, the application is submitted to the government whose jurisdiction will contain the most fence. The act applies only to fences no lower than five feet high at any point that will either: enclose a space and be at least one mile long; or not enclose a space and be at least one-half mile long. The local government must publish notice of the application on its website within 14 days and approve or reject the application within 60 days. The act establishes criteria for approval of a fence application and exceptions from application requirements. Local laws can establish stricter requirements. **Effective: May 27, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1093

Limitations on Local Anti-Growth Land Use Policies

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1093>

The act prohibits a local government in a census urban area from enacting or enforcing a generally applicable land use law that explicitly decreases permitted residential density or uses to a lower residential density or fewer uses than “allowed by the land’s usage and zoning as of July 1, 2025,” unless there is a corresponding increase in residential density or uses elsewhere in the jurisdiction. The act also amends the 2023 prohibition on anti-growth land use laws to provide that the limitations apply only to laws of general application and do not apply to land with or adjacent to a wildlife crossing structure. Finally, the act allows a municipality, before ordering an election, to seek a judicial determination as to the legality of an initiated land use ordinance with respect to constitutionality, the Vested Property Rights Act, or the prohibition on anti-growth land use laws in C.R.S. § 29-20-104.2. An action pursuant to this provision tolls the period to order an election. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1113

Limit Turf in New Residential Development

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1113>

The act updates a 2024 law mandating that local governments restrict the installation of nonfunctional or artificial turf and invasive species by Jan. 1, 2026, on “applicable property,” including common interest community property, street right-of-way, medians, parking lots, and commercial, institutional, or industrial property. That mandate now includes the common

interest property of any multifamily residential housing premises property with more than 12 dwelling units. By Jan. 1, 2028, the mandate extends to any portion of an applicable property that includes multifamily residential housing premises property.

Also, by Jan. 1, 2028, any local government with planning and zoning authority is directed to adopt local laws regulating nonfunctional turf installation to reduce irrigation water demand on all applicable property and all residential real property. The government entity may choose the standard or mechanism for regulating turf on residential real property that is not a multifamily property with more than 12 dwelling units. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1198

Regional Planning Roundtable Commission

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1198>

The act creates the 21-member Regional Roundtable Planning Commission in DOLA. Members will come from local governments, state agencies, and interests including the indigenous community, affordable housing, tourism, and planning. The commission will meet when a local government requests assistance in addressing a regional opportunity or challenge. The commission may identify state resources and help establish a planning framework, among other things. The commission will operate only if DOLA receives sufficient funding through gifts, grants, or donations. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

SB25-019

Modernization of the State Plane Coordinate System

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-019>

With limited exceptions, the act allows the use of the most recent or a prior version of the State Plane Coordinate System established by the National Geodetic Survey to state geographic positions or locations of points. The use of the Colorado Coordinate Systems of 1927 or 1983 remain authorized. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-149

Local Government Duties Equestrian Protections

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-149>

The act authorizes municipalities to construct equestrian road crossings and horse-trailer parking and install related signage. Similar infrastructure can be required as a condition of development. The act authorizes municipalities to include equestrian zones, venues, and infrastructure in master plans. The act amends the Uniform Safety Code of 1935 to permit equestrians to travel on the right side of the road in the direction of traffic. The act requires CDOT to include equestrian safety provisions in curricula for commercial driving schools. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

See also: **BROADBAND/TELECOM** (HB25-1056: Local Government Permitting Wireless Telecommunications Facilities); **BUILDING CODES** (HB25-1060: Electronic Fence Detection Systems; HB25-1273: Residential Building Stair Modernization; SB25-002: Regional Building Codes for Factory-Built Structures); **HOUSING** (HB25-1272: Construction Defects & Middle Market Housing); **SPECIAL DISTRICTS** (HB25-121: Tap Fees Imposed by Special Districts)

Miscellaneous Governmental OPERATIONS

HB25-1001

Enforcement Wage Hour Laws

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1001>

The act makes various changes to the Colorado Wage Act, which generally does not apply to municipalities as employers. CDLE is authorized to post decisions of violations found by any governmental body on its website and to report violations to governments that regulate an employer. The act clarifies that the Wage Act does not limit authority of a person designated by a county or city and county to enforce laws relating to the payment of wages. The act permits a city, city and county, or county to enact and enforce wage laws if they do not diminish protections of the Wage Act. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

HB25-1029

Municipal Authority Over Certain Land

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1029>

The act amends existing authority for a city or city and county to exercise full police power and control over park, parkway, boulevards, and roads outside of its jurisdiction (C.R.S. § 31-25-216) to now include open space and natural areas. Land may be open or closed to the public. The act amends existing authority to exempt such land that is within the Indian reservations. The authority granted by the act regarding open space and natural areas does not extend to prevention of water pollution. **Effective: March 26, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1208

Local Governments Tip Offsets for Tipped Employees

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1208>

The act amends local authority to establish an increased minimum wage by setting a tip offset for businesses serving food or beverages for consumption, until Jan. 1, 2026. On and after that date, a local government can increase the tip offset associated with the local minimum wage as long as an employee would not earn the state minimum wage minus \$3.02. **Effective: July 1, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

HB25-1295

Food Truck Operations

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1295>

The act provides that a fire safety permit issued to a mobile food establishment is valid in any other jurisdiction so long as (1) the permit was issued by a local government that has adopted the most recent international fire code or a fire code incorporating the minimum codes and standards for mobile food establishments adopted by the Division of Fire Prevention and Control, and (2) after an inspection by a certified fire inspector. The mobile food establishment must provide a copy of the permit to the local government responsible for issuing fire safety permit in the jurisdiction in which it intends to operate at least 14 days before operating. The mobile food establishment must also comply with the local government's fire safety code and is subject to local inspection and enforcement.

The act also authorizes a mobile food establishment with a state health department license to operate in the City and County of Denver if it submits required documentation at least 14 days before operating, displays the state health department license during operation, maintains all required fire safety permits, and complies with all local laws, regulations, and codes.

A mobile food establishment with a Denver retail food license is considered to have a valid state health department license and may operate in the jurisdiction of another local government. The mobile food establishment must provide a copy of the Denver retail food license to the local government in which it intends to operate at least 14 days before operating. The mobile food establishment must comply with all local laws, regulations, and codes of the jurisdiction in which it is operating and is subject to local inspection and enforcement.

Nothing in the act prohibits a local government from adopting or enforcing its ordinances, resolutions, regulations, zoning codes, health codes, or other codes regarding the operation of a mobile food establishment. **Effective: Jan. 1, 2026.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

HB25-1312

Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1312>

The act makes it a discriminatory act under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act for a place of public accommodation to publish materials that “deadname” or “misgender” with specific intent to discriminate. The terms are defined in the act. The knowing refusal to use a preferred chosen name, honorific, or pronoun is evidence of intent to discriminate. The act also establishes laws applicable to state agencies, juvenile courts, and schools. **Effective: May 16, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-050

Racial Classifications on Government Forms

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-050>

The act requires that state and local government forms requesting disclosure of race or ethnicity include a space to indicate if an individual's race or ethnicity is Middle Eastern, North African, or South Asian. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-146

Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Record Checks

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-146>

The act modifies requirements for fingerprint-based criminal background checks related to multiple professions and local government background checks (including marijuana and massage facility licensing) to conform to federal requirements. The act establishes a process for local government background check requirements established by ordinance or resolution and compliant with 34 U.S.C. 41101. The local government can receive the results of the background checks by the state and federal government and must use the results for investigating and determining licensee qualification. If an arrest without a disposition is identified, the local government must require a name-based background check. The act extends the time to conduct background checks for massage facility licenses by nine months to July 1, 2026. **Effective: June 2, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

SB25-276

Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-276>

The act creates numerous protections to avoid violating the rights of individuals based on their immigration status. Among the changes, the act prohibits a jail custodian from delaying a defendant's release from custody for purposes of an immigration enforcement operation and expands the categories of crimes for which an individual may challenge their guilty plea on grounds of immigration consequences or constitutional infirmity.

Under current law, state employees are prohibited from disclosing or giving access to personal identifying information that is not publicly available for purposes of investigating for, participating in, cooperating with, or assisting in federal immigration enforcement; they are also prohibited from inquiring into, or requesting information or documents to ascertain, a persons' immigration status, or from collecting certain other related data, except as required by state or federal law, or as necessary to perform their duties. An employee who intentionally violates any of these provisions is subject to an injunction and \$50,000 civil penalty. The act expands these prohibitions and the penalty to political subdivision employees but clarifies that these provisions do not restrict an employee from investigating, participating in, cooperating with, or assisting federal law enforcement agencies in criminal investigations.

The act also creates minimum requirements for public childcare centers, public schools, local education providers, public institutions of higher education, public health-care facilities, and public libraries including prohibiting collection of certain data except as required by federal or state law or to perform duties, and release of records to certain individuals. These institutions must adopt policies that align with the requirements of the act, including addressing access to information and access to facilities not accessible to the public. An intentional violation of certain provisions is subject to an injunction and a civil penalty of not more than \$50,000. **Effective: May 23, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer, Heather Stauffer

See also: **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** (HB25-1180: Prohibiting Pet Animal Sales in Public Spaces; SB25-129: Legally Protected Health-Care Activity Protections).

Municipal COURTS

HB25-1116

DOC Search Court Records Before Offender Release

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1116>

When an individual is in the custody of the DOC, the act requires DOC to search all information available to it at various points in time to determine whether an offender is subject to an outstanding warrant issued by any court, including municipal courts, or whether the offender has a pending case in a Colorado court. If DOC learns that an offender has a warrant or pending case, DOC is required to take certain steps to notify the offender, the public defender liaison, and the relevant court. Courts, including municipal courts, are encouraged to take steps upon notification to ensure the offender appears before the court, to resolve any outstanding warrant, and to use virtual appearances. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1304

Extension of Restitution Deadlines

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1304>

The act gives a prosecuting attorney 63 days to submit restitution information to the court following a criminal conviction. The trial court has an additional 63 days following the submission of restitution information by the prosecutor to the court to order restitution. The act applies to certain state offenses but may also impact municipalities that align their municipal code with state law. **Effective: May 30, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-062

Failure to Appear Charges in Municipal Court

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-062>

The act amends Article 10 of Title 13 to prohibit a municipal criminal charge from being based on a failure to appear on a court date, regardless of how the failure to appear is referred to in an ordinance. The act expressly preserves a municipal court's inherent judicial contempt power and authority to issue a bench warrant for failure to appear. A municipal court can consider a failure to appear for purposes of setting an appropriate bond. **Effective: April 17, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

See also: **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** (HB25-1112: Local Authorities Enforce Vehicle Registration; HB25-1148: Criminal Protection Order & Protection Order Violation)

Open Meetings & RECORDS

SB25-052

Railroad Investigative Report Confidentiality

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-052>

The act replaces a statute making PUC investigations relating to rail fixed guideway system confidential and not usable in court proceedings with rulemaking authority to make certain records confidential. The act prohibits the confidentiality of final reports. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

See also: **CRIMINAL JUSTICE: LAW ENFORCEMENT**

OPERATIONS (HB24-1087: Confidentiality Requirements Mental Health Support); **PUBLIC SAFETY** (HB25-1195: First Responder Voter Registration Record Confidentiality)

Public & Behavioral HEALTH

SB25-042

Behavioral Health Crisis Response Recommendations

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-042>

The act requires DPS and BHA to consult with stakeholders about existing resources and model programs for responding to behavioral health crises, as well as reimbursement shortages and gaps of care for behavioral health crisis response, and reimbursement and funding options to address those gaps. Law enforcement, fire protection agencies, and emergency medical services are identified as stakeholders. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables.

SB25-164

Opioid Antagonist Availability & State Board of Health

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-164>

The act modifies authorizations around a school's maintenance, use, and furnishment of opioid antagonists. Additionally, under current law, there is an enumerated list of eligible entities to which a prescriber may prescribe or dispense an opioid antagonist, which includes law enforcement and units of local government; the act eliminates the list and authorizes the State Board of Health to establish a list of eligible entities. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

See also: **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** (SB25-009: Recognition of Tribal Court Orders)

Public SAFETY

HB25-1137

Adopt a Shelter Pet Account Community Cats

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1137>

The act creates a new Trap-Neuter-Return Grant Program administered by the Pet Overpopulation Authority that is funded using existing revenue to the Adopt a Shelter Pet Account. The act also requires at least 70% of the money in the fund to be allocated to rural community facilities and modifies the authority's board of directors. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1195

First Responder Voter Registration Record Confidentiality

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1195>

The act allows a first responder, which includes a peace officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, emergency medical service provider, emergency communications specialist, or their spouse or civil union partner, to request that the county clerk and recorder of the county where they reside keep their address confidential in any public voter registration information. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-031

Single Point of Contact Wireless Services

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-031>

Under the act "alerting authority" is defined as a jurisdiction with authority to alert and warn the public when there is an impending natural or human-made disaster, threat, or dangerous or missing person. Beginning July 1, 2027, alerting authorities must begin disseminating emergency alerts in English and in a predominant minority language if the authority covers a county

or city in which at least 2,000 or 2.5% of residents age 18 or older speak the predominant minority language and speak English "less than very well." Emergency alerts must be sent in the timeliest manner possible and be in plain English. The state, local governments, and alerting authorities are encouraged to send emergency alerts in as many languages as possible. Grants may be made available to implement language and accessibility services for emergency alerts. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-256

Funds for Support of Digital Trunked Radio System

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-256>

The act transfers \$15 million per year for ten years from the Local Government Severance Tax Fund to the Public Safety Communications Trust Fund to support the digital trunked radio system. **Effective: April 24, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

See also: **TRANSPORTATION** (SB25-162: Railroad Safety Requirements).

Regulated SUBSTANCES

HB25-1063

FDA-Approved Crystalline Polymorph Psilocybin Use

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1063>

The act provides that a prescription medicine containing crystalline polymorph psilocybin is legal to prescribe, dispense, distribute, possess, use, and market upon approval by the United State Food and Drug Administration. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1209

Marijuana Regulation Streamline

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1209>

The act makes numerous changes to improve efficiency in the regulation of marijuana licensees at the state level including modifying requirements for recordkeeping, identification cards for certain individuals, fingerprinting for licensure and renewal, security and surveillance, and standards for research and development units. **Effective: Jan. 5, 2026.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-072

Regulation of Kratom

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-072>

The act makes it a deceptive trade practice to prepare, distribute, advertise, sell or offer to sell a kratom product that is adulterated, to a person under 21, that includes certain chemical compositions, that mimics a candy product or would appeal to children, that is combustible or intended for vaporization, that is not labeled as required by law, or that is displayed or accessible to persons under 21. The act updates the definition of kratom product in Title 18. **Effective: May 29, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

SB25-297

Implementation of Colorado Natural Medicine Initiative

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-297>

The act requires CDPHE to collect information concerning the implementation of natural medicine, including law enforcement incidents relating to its use, and to include information regarding health outcomes in related state agency reporting. The act amends the Colorado Natural Medicine Code to require regulations to address product labeling and to permit regulations regarding other matters related to labeling and data collection. The act reduces background check requirements for natural medicine licensees to name-based background checks. The act permits pardons related to the possession of natural medicine. **Effective: June 3, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

See also: **MISCELLANEOUS** (SB25-146: Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Record Checks)

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

HB25-1211

Tap Fees Imposed by Special Districts

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1211>

The act codifies standards for establishing tap fees by water and water and sanitation districts. Such fees must be reasonably related to the costs incurred by a district in funding and providing the service, but excluding ongoing operations, maintenance, and routine monthly usage. Districts must apply one of four specified factors to support the calculation and setting of proportional or reduced fees, including long-term water usage, unit square footage, unit bedroom totals, lot square footage, use of low-water appliances, per-unit fixture counts, or the use of graywater. The act imposes a duty on water and water and sanitation districts to provide water service when it has physical, legal, and financial capacity, excluding extraterritorial service. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

HB25-1219

Requirements for Better Understanding Metropolitan Districts

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1219>

The act requires that service plans submitted on or after Jan. 1, 2025, include the maximum term of a debt service mill levy on residential property. The act requires that a metropolitan district's website include information regarding annual meetings, overlapping government entities, contact information, and a plain explanation about the district, the improvements and services it provides, district debt and revenue, the maximum mill levy, and service on the district board. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1289

Metropolitan District Leases & Property Tax Exemptions

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1289>

The act requires a metropolitan district to justify the lease of property for which a property tax exemption is claimed. The district must provide the county assessor with a statement regarding the district's use of the property, the authority to use the property for its purposes, use of the property by private persons for private purposes, and any statutory disclosures by board members relating to financial or personal interests or conflicts of interest. Where disclosures relate to the leased property, the assessor must forward the statement to the governing body that approved the district's service plan; within 63 days of receipt, the governing body must issue a written decision as to whether the leased property is used for a public purpose to qualify for the tax exemption. The act applies to leases or rental agreements effective on or after Jan. 1, 2025. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

SUSTAINABILITY

HB25-1040

Adding Nuclear Energy as a Clean Energy Resource

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1040>

The act makes nuclear energy eligible for clean energy project financing at the county and city and county level and allows retail utilities to use nuclear energy to meet the 2050 clean energy target. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1096

Automated Permits for Clean Energy Technology

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1096>

The act extends eligibility for maintenance support grant funding for three years after software implementation. The act also permits the Colorado Energy Office to use a larger portions of grant funds for administrative costs. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1165

Geologic Storage Enterprise & Geothermal Resources

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1165>

The act renames the Oil and Gas Conservation Act as the Energy and Carbon Management Act and establishes standards for site closures. The act establishes a geologic storage enterprise to fund long term stewardship of storage of geologic storage through various means, including imposing a fee on operators to address the cost of plugging, abandoning, reclaiming, or remediating orphaned facilities. The act modifies laws regarding underground geothermal resources, including adding protections for prior geothermal wells from new groundwater well permits. Deep geothermal operations do not require a well permit to withdraw nontributary water from a geologic formation unless the water will be used other than for the extraction or utilization of heat. The act adds protections for historic hot springs and requires owners of such springs or governments with an interest in the public's enjoyment of noncommercial hot springs to register with the state engineer. The act creates regulations for ground heat exchanger contractors. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1267

Support for Statewide Energy Strategies

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1267>

The act requires the Division of Oil and Public Safety to promulgate rules on retail electric vehicle charging by July 1, 2026, enforcement of which will begin July 1, 2027. Charging stations owned, maintained, or used by a public utility are excluded from the rules. The act also broadens the allowable uses of money in the electric vehicle grant fund to include operational and policy work to support electric vehicle adoption and charging, as well as to support the development and enforcement of the electric vehicle charging rules. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1269

Building Decarbonization Measures

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1269>

The act clarifies that the adoption of a wildfire resiliency code does not trigger the requirement for a municipality to adopt and enforce an energy code. The act establishes a "building carbonization fee" to be collected by building decarbonization enterprise that will assist in implementing building decarbonization measures; the fee is not payable by owners of public buildings. The act requires the Air Quality Control Commission to establish 2040 performance standards for greenhouse gas emissions by rule based on recommendations of a task force. The act permits covered buildings to comply with state building performance standards by following local programs that meet certain requirements. The act also updates benchmarking and reporting requirements for operators of covered buildings and increases civil penalties, which may be adjusted by rule in the future. Grant funding for covered

buildings is prioritized for plans that comply with or exceed 2026 or 2030 performance standards. The act permits the Colorado Energy Office to use funding established for energy code training and adoption to pay for other matters. **Effective: May 20, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-039

Agricultural Buildings Exempt from Energy Use Requirements

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-039>

The act allows the Air Quality Control Commission to grant exemptions from state energy benchmarking requirements for certain agricultural buildings. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

SB25-163

Battery Stewardship Programs

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-163>

The act creates a battery stewardship program to address collection, transportation, processing, and recycling of certain batteries. By July 1, 2027, and every five years thereafter, battery stewardship organizations must submit their plan, the requirements of which are detailed in the act, to CDPHE for approval. Starting Aug. 1, 2027, battery producers must participate in and finance a battery stewardship organization with an approved plan. Starting July 1, 2029, a retailer is prohibited from selling certain batteries unless the battery producer is participating in a battery stewardship organization with an approved plan. By June 1, 2029, and each year thereafter, battery stewardship organizations must submit a report to CDPHE. The act directs organizations to promote the implementation of these programs, as well as provide educational and safety materials. Under the act, organizations must reimburse participating collection sites for costs incurred, including local governments that choose to operate a collection site. The Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission is charged with enforcement of the act. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

TAXATION

HB25-1247

County Lodging Tax Expansion

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1247>

The act increases the amount of lodging tax that a county can levy from 2% to 6% and expands the permitted uses of such revenue to include public infrastructure maintenance or improvements as well as to enhance public safety measures. As under current law, any such lodging tax does not apply within any municipality levying a lodging tax. **Effective: May 13, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

SB25-046

Local Government Tax Audit Confidentiality Standards

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-046>

The act prohibits third-party auditors for local taxing jurisdictions from disclosing information obtained from a sales or use tax investigation or tax returns. The act authorizes disclosure if ordered by a court or in limited circumstances to specified people. Violation of the act is a misdemeanor punishable by a \$1,000 fine. **Effective: July 1, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

SB25-272

Regional Transportation Authority Sales & Use Tax Exemption

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-272>

The act establishes that contractors and subcontractors purchasing or using construction and building materials for use in building, altering, or repairing structures owned and used by a regional transportation authority to house authority employees or contractors are exempt from sales and use tax. This exemption does not extend to home rule municipalities. **Effective: May 30, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

See also: **SPECIAL DISTRICTS** (HB25-1289: Metropolitan District Leases & Property Tax Exemptions)

TRANSPORTATION

HB25-1007

Paratransit Services

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1007>

Starting Jan. 1, 2026, transit agencies and local public entities providing emergency services must establish a plan to communicate information and provide paratransit services during emergencies. The plan must contain information on the number of rides who use the paratransit services and the transit agency's resource capacity. By Sept. 1, 2026, transit agencies and local public entities providing emergency services must submit a report to the transportation legislation review committee on the implementation of this plan. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1110

Railroad Crossing Maintenance Costs

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1110>

The act requires the PUC to modify rules regarding the allocation of costs for the maintenance of railroad crossings between railroads and governments. Where a local government controls the road at the crossing, the local government is responsible for maintenance costs of an existing roadway outside of the railroad ties and the railroad is responsible for the portion of the existing crossing between the ties. Costs

involving roads of other governments are shared equally with the railroad. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1117

Vehicle Immobilization Company Regulation

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1117>

The act expands the existing permit required to boot a vehicle to require the permit for any device intended to prevent the normal operation of a vehicle. The act also adds new obligations for vehicle immobilization companies such as documentation and notification requirements to ensure fairness and transparency and to protect consumers. The act does not apply to an immobilization ordered by a peace officer or directed by a peace officer, nor to an immobilization ordered by a municipality, county, or city and county, or its agents, contractors, or employees.

Effective: June 3, 2025. Lobbyist: Bev Stables

HB25-1281

Title Register & Drive Kei Vehicles

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1281>

The act authorizes a kei vehicle, which a very small four-wheeled vehicle imported from Japan, to operate as a motor vehicle. Kei vehicles must be issued a certificate of title, be registered, and comply with motor vehicle traffic laws. Kei vehicles are prohibited from using roadways with a speed limit over 55 miles per hour except to drive across an at-grade intersection; a violation is a class B traffic infraction. **Effective: July 1, 2027.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

SB25-030

Increase Transportation Mode Choice Reduce Emissions

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-030>

The act requires CDOT, in coordination with local governments and transit agencies, to create a transit and active transportation project inventory by July 1, 2026. The inventory must identify gaps in transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure and access on state highways and rights-of-way controlled and maintained by CDOT. The act also requires metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), in coordination with local governments and transit agencies, to create a transit and active transportation project inventory by July 1, 2026, identifying those same gaps within the network of regionally significant roadways and rights-of-way that are typically managed by the MPO. Both CDOT and MPOs must report their inventories to the Transportation Legislation Review Committee by Oct. 31, 2026.

By Dec. 31, 2025, subject local governments, which includes all municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more within an MPO, must submit all planned transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects to its MPO. The local government may also adopt mode choice targets; submit local transportation demand management strategies to its MPO; and identify unfinished transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects in specified areas. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

SB25-069

Tire Chain Traction Control Device Permit

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-069>

The act creates a permit issued by CDOT, for a fee, that authorizes the holder to install or remove tire chains or alternate traction devices on motor vehicles. The permit designates specific areas for conducting the installation or removal, which cannot be in a municipality without municipal approval unless the location is an interstate highway. CDOT is authorized to impose conditions on the permit concerning the safe and orderly movement of traffic.

Effective: Aug. 6, 2025. Lobbyist: Bev Stables

SB25-161

Transit Reform

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-161>

The act imposes numerous requirements on, and provides new authority to, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) for the purpose of improving RTD's performance. By March 31, 2026, the transportation commission must develop and publish best practices and technical assistance about the creation of regional transportation authorities, to increase transit funding and provide additional transit services in Colorado. The act also creates a 15-person RTD accountability committee within the CEO that must provide recommendations to the General Assembly by Jan. 30, 2026, regarding the governance structure and compensation of the RTD board and executive leadership, paratransit services provided by RTD, how to expand transit services, representation of local governments and state agencies within RTD, and RTD's workforce retention. **Effective: May 13, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

SB25-162

Railroad Safety Requirements

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-162>

The act requires a watch center to notify the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Office of Rail Safety (Office) after a railroad notifies the watch center of an incident. Train crew members are authorized to communicate with first responders during an emergency, after notifying railroad dispatch, and have discretion to determine the appropriate response, including cutting the crossing. The act eliminates the shared authority the PUC, DPS, and CDOT had to inspect and investigate railroads and grants the PUC sole authority. The Office is required to gather and analyze information regarding railroad safety and, beginning July 1, 2027, to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the state's ability to respond to a large-scale release of hazardous materials from rail transportation. The act imposes fees on railroads regulated by the PUC to cover the costs of the act. **Effective: June 4, 2025.** Lobbyist: Bev Stables

See also: **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** (HB25-1039: Commercial Vehicle Muffler Requirements; HB25-1230: Changes Violation Driver Overtaking School Bus); **FINANCE** (SB25-317: Transfer Cash Fund Investment Earnings to General Fund); **LAND USE** (SB25-149: Local Government Duties Equestrian Protections)

UTILITIES

HB25-1292

Transmission Lines in State Highway Rights-of-Way

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1292>

The act permits transmission developers, including municipal utilities, to locate high-voltage lines within a state highway right-of-way. CDOT is required to provide to transmission developers the best available information on potential future state highway development projects that could impact the placement of a high voltage line. The act requires transmission developers to compensate CDOT for installing high voltage lines in a state highway right-of-way. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2027, within 30 days of filing for a local permit for the construction or development of a high voltage line, a transmission developer is required to make available on a public-facing project website or utility website a report that includes specific information. The act also establishes a state highway corridor study and adjusts the statutory definition of "real estate appraiser" to align caps on waiver valuation with federal regulations. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-037

Coal Transition Grants

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-037>

The act requires the Just Transition Office to report annually to the General Assembly on grants awarded. The act adds emphasis to tier two coal transition communities (in addition to tier one communities) and communities experiencing socioeconomic impact of coal closures. The act requires the office to establish a timeline for grant awards. The act permits an option for DOLA to establish preference for coal transition communities in the awarding of Energy and Mineral Impact grants for three years beginning in 2026. **Effective: June 3, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-068

Municipal Utility Unclaimed Utility Deposit Program

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-068>

The act allows municipal utilities to elect to submit unclaimed utility deposits into a state fund or to a local fund to provide assistance to low-income users for the payment of electric and gas utility bills. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-204

Revision to Local Government Utility Relocation Statute

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-204>

The act adds a definition of "utility company betterment" to the process for utility relocation established by HB24-1266. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

WATER

HJR25-1004

Water Project Eligibility Lists

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hjr25-1004>

The resolution modifies Drinking Water Project Eligibility List and Water Pollution Control Project Eligibility List regarding funding through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund and the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, respectively. **Effective: Feb. 27, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1014

Increasing Efficiency Division of Water Resources

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1014>

The act extends the time to construct wells outside of a designated groundwater basin after permit approval from one to two years. The act deletes the requirement of notice by certified mail for the expiration of such a permit. The act allows for the regular review of potentially abandoned water rights to occur more frequently. The act extends certain time frames relating to the well permitting process and eliminates final permitting requirements for non-Denver Basin bedrock aquifer wells in the designated basins. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

HB25-1311

Deductions for Net Sports Betting Proceeds

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1311>

Under current law there is a 10% tax on net sports betting proceeds, but an operator is allowed to deduct all payments to players, all federal excise taxes paid, and a certain percentage of free bets placed by players. The act modifies the percentage of free bets allowed to be deducted through June 30, 2026, and, starting July 1, 2026, removes the deduction altogether. These changes will increase available funding for water projects. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Elizabeth Haskell

SB25-040

Future of Severance Taxes & Water Funding Task Force

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-040>

The act creates the Future of Severance Taxes and Water Funding Task Force to consult and coordinate with a third party hired by the Department of Natural Resources in the development of a study regarding the future of severance taxes and water funding in Colorado. The task force includes a municipal seat. The study will look at ways to continue funding water needs and Energy Impact Grants and will focus on identifying ways to alleviate the need to transfer severance tax revenues to the General Fund. The final report must be completed by July 15, 2026. **Effective: Aug. 6, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-305

Water Quality Permitting Efficiency

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-305>

The act restricts review by the Water Quality Control Division of CDPHE of applications to modify permits to discharge pollutants into state waters or for disposal of biosolids to the scope of specific requests contained in the application. The act also permits the division to allow public input on preliminary drafts of the division's analysis of permit applications. The act requires the division to identify time frames for granting or denying applications, effective June 30, 2028. The act requires the division to consider debt service on existing local government water infrastructure when developing compliance schedules for new effluent limits in permits and to allow repayment of existing debt before requiring upgrades. The act allows the use of independent contractors to assist the division in review of permits. **Effective: June 4, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

See also: **LAND USE** (HB25-1113: Limit Turf in New Residential Development)

WILDFIRE

SB25-007

Increase Prescribed Burns

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-007>

The act establishes a fund for payment of claims for damages resulting from prescribed burns. The act also establishes reciprocity for "certified burner" training. **Effective: May 29, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-142

Changes to Wildfire Resiliency Code Board

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-142>

The act extends the period to adopt codes meeting or exceeding the state wildfire resiliency code from three to nine months. The act permits enforcement through a cooperative agreement. **Effective: June 3, 2025.** Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

YOUTH

SB25-004

Regulating Child Care Center Fees

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-004>

The act requires childcare programs to refund application, deposit, or wait list fees upon request if the child is not enrolled within 6 months unless an offered spot is refused. The program must provide a fee schedule and refund process explanation.

Effective: Jan. 1, 2026. Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

SB25-197

Tony Grampsas Youth Services Program

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-197>

The act transfers responsibilities for the Tony Grampsas Youth Services Program to the Department of Human Services. The act repeals individual programs within the grant program and instead lists them as allowable uses for grant money under the broader grant program. The act repeals public-to-private match requirements and modifies reporting requirements for grantees.

Effective: Aug. 6, 2025. Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer

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