

COLORADO STATE SENATE

MAJORITY OFFICE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 23, 2014

Notable bills to be heard in Senate this week



DENVER -- The Senate has scheduled the following noteworthy bills to be heard this week. This list is not exhaustive but includes bills that are on topics that have typically garnered public input and media attention. The dates and times may change, so be sure to call and confirm the time and date before covering a bill.

HB 14-1079: CAPITAL FOR COLORADO BUSINESSES

Sponsors: Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, D-Arvada; Rep. Pete Lee, D-Colorado Springs

Second-reading debate, Monday, Feb. 24 at 10:00 a.m. in Senate chambers

Access to capital within Colorado continues to be inadequate for the needs of Colorado businesses and entrepreneurial startups. Historically, a gap occurs between funding available from friends, family, and angels and funding available from venture capitalists. One approach to raising capital in Colorado is through limited registration public offerings. This bill allows Colorado businesses to raise \$5 million from limited registration public offerings, up from \$1 million.

HB 14-1077: RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS

Sponsors: Sen. Mary Hodge, D-Brighton; Rep. Cheri Gerou, R-Evergreen

Senate Finance Committee, Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 2:00 p.m. in Senate committee room 354

This bipartisan bill will ensure there is an adequate balance to address environmental response needs by raising the cap on the two- year average of unobligated oil and gas conservation and environmental response funds to \$6 million, up from \$4 million.

HB 14-1130: BORROWER FEES DURING A FORCLOSURE

Sponsors: Sen. Jessie Ulibarri, D-Westminster; Rep. Beth McCann, D-Denver

Senate Local Gov. Committee, Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 2:00 p.m. in Senate committee room 353

During a foreclosure, expenses accumulate for court filings and published notices. Current law does not specify when and how expenses are calculated. This bill protects the borrower and says that anything charged to the borrower must be accounted for and overpayments must be refunded.

HB 14-1051: STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY PLAN

Sponsors: Sen. John Kefalas, D-Fort Collins; Sen. Larry Crowder, R-Alamosa; Rep. Sue Schafer, D-Wheat Ridge; Rep. Lois Landgraf, R-Fountain

Senate Health and Human Services Committee, Wednesday, Feb. 26 upon adjournment in Senate committee room 352

This bipartisan bill is an effort to eliminate waiting periods for developmental disability services. It requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to develop a strategic plan for enrolling people with intellectual and developmental disabilities into home-based and community-based programs as soon as the services are needed.

SB 14-124: TURNAROUND SCHOOLS

Sponsors: Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, D-Arvada; Rep. Rhonda Fields, D-Aurora

Senate Education Committee, Thursday, Feb. 27 at 1:30 p.m. in Senate committee room 356

We must invest in teachers, principals, and administrators who have the ability to lead. This bill establishes the School Turnaround Leaders Development program, which the Department of Education will administer. One-third of the program will be for turnaround leader grants. Participants in the program will be required to track and report on the results of the program.

SB 14-050: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT HOSPITALS

Sponsors: Sen. Irene Aguilar, D-Denver; Rep. Dominick Moreno, D-Commerce City

Senate Health and Human Services Committee, Thursday, Feb. 27 at 1:30 p.m. in Senate committee room 352

Going to a hospital can be a trying on a family, especially when a family is uninsured. This bill specifies what information hospitals must provide regarding financial assistance, charity care, and payment plan options. The information must outline eligibility criteria and how to apply for financial assistance.

SB 14-144: RURAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Sponsors: Sen. Irene Aguilar, D-Denver; Sen. Jeanne Nicholson, D-Gilpin County; Rep. Joann Ginal, D-Fort Collins

Senate Health and Human Services Committee, Thursday, Feb. 27 at 1:30 p.m. in Senate committee room 352

This bill establishes family medicine residency programs in rural Colorado and other underserved areas of the state. The programs will bring more medical providers to those areas, while providing more training opportunities for medical students. In addition, this bill requires the Commission on Family Medicine to complete a study concerning family medicine residency programs in rural and other underserved areas of the state.

SB 14-046: FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

Sponsors: Sen. Jeanne Nicholson, D-Gilpin County; Rep. Tony Exum, D-Colorado Springs

Senate Appropriations Committee, Friday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 a.m. in Senate committee room 356

While fighting fires, firefighters are exposed to carcinogens, among other hazardous materials. This bill creates the Local Firefighter Safety and Disease Prevention Fund for local fire departments to invest in equipment and training designed to increase firefighter safety and prevent occupation-related diseases.

SB 14-115: STATE WATER PLAN

Sponsors: Sen. Gail Schwartz, D-Snowmass; Sen. Ellen Roberts, R-Durango; Rep. Randy Fischer, D-Fort Collins; Rep. Don Coram, R-Montrose

Senate Appropriations Committee, Friday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 a.m. in Senate committee room 356

This bill solidifies the process for developing a Colorado Water Plan, which is a massive, multi-year effort to secure the future of our state's most critical natural resource. It outlines the role of the legislature, stakeholders and public engagement in creating and finalizing the plan.

About the Senate Majority

Eighteen Democrats comprise the majority of Colorado's 35-member Senate. Leadership for the 69th General Assembly includes Senate President Morgan Carroll; President Pro Tempore Lucia Guzman; Majority Leader Rollie Heath; Assistant Majority Leader Irene Aguilar, Caucus Chair Jeanne Nicholson, and Majority Whip Gail Schwartz.

Breaking news, legislator biographies and photos are available at coloradosenate.org.