



Good afternoon, CRS Policy Team,

Below is your weekly legislative update that includes a link to your detailed bill matrix of all the bills that we are tracking for the Colorado Radiological Society. This update also includes highlights from this week at the General Assembly and hearings to note for the near future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions!

Have a great weekend,

Edie and Emily

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WEEKLY “CALL TO ACTION”

BILL MATRICES

- [Detailed Matrix](#): Detailed view of bills, with hyperlinks to more information – bill versions, fiscal notes, engaged lobbyists, history, etc.

Note that these matrices are confidential work products of Colorado Radiological Society and are not intended to be shared beyond your organizational leadership. These are dynamic links with the most up-to-date information on the bills as they move through the process and can be accessed from any internet source. These will be your exclusive hyperlinks for the session, we encourage you to bookmark them for future use.

Bills of Note to Colorado Radiological Society:

1. [HB24-1005, Health Insurers Contract with Qualified Providers](#): The bill requires a health-care insurance carrier (carrier) to include a primary care provider as a participating provider in all networks, including narrow networks and all tiers of tiered networks, of the carrier's health benefit plan if the primary care provider is:
 - Licensed to practice in Colorado;
 - Certified or accredited by a national association for the certification or accreditation of primary care providers;
 - Enrolled in an alternative payment model; and
 - Credentialed by federal law to receive reimbursement for the provision of care to patients receiving benefits from Medicaid.



On or before December 31, 2025, the commissioner of insurance must promulgate rules to implement the bill, including rules:

- Establishing criteria and a process for determining whether a primary care provider meets the criteria; and
- Establishing a schedule for contracted reimbursements issued to primary care providers who participate in a health benefit plan.

The division of insurance must contract with an actuary to determine a minimum reimbursement schedule for alternative payment models. The schedule:

- Must ensure that primary care providers are reimbursed at rates that are at least equal to the reimbursement rates established in law for purposes of the Colorado standardized health benefit plan;
- Must include adjustments for regional cost of living variations; and
- May include incentives for integration of behavioral health-care services and comprehensive care coordination services.

If a carrier and a primary care provider do not negotiate and agree to terms of reimbursement, the carrier must compensate the primary care provider in accordance with the schedule for contracted reimbursements established by rule. If a primary care provider employed by a medical group or hospital system leaves the medical group or hospital system to establish an independent practice, the primary care provider may communicate with patients about continuing to see them in the new practice.

Position: Monitor

2. **[HB24-1066: Prevent Workplace Violence in Health-Care Setting](#)**: The bill enacts the "Violence Prevention in Health-care Settings Act", applicable to hospitals, freestanding emergency departments, nursing care facilities, assisted living residences, and federally qualified health centers, and the "Violence Prevention in Behavioral Health Settings Act", applicable to comprehensive community behavioral health providers. Both acts require each of these facility types to:
 - a. Establish a workplace violence prevention committee to document and review workplace violence incidents at the facility and develop and regularly review a workplace violence prevention plan (plan) for the facility;
 - b. Adopt, implement, enforce, and update the plan;
 - c. Provide training on the plan and on workplace violence prevention;
 - d. Submit biannual workplace violence incident reports to the department of public health and environment or the behavioral health administration, as applicable; and
 - e. If a workplace violence incident occurs, offer post-incident services to affected staff.

The bill specifies the required components of facility plans. Facilities are prohibited from discouraging staff from contacting or filing an incident report with law enforcement. The bill also prohibits retaliation, discipline, or discrimination against a person who reports a workplace violence incident in good faith, who advises a staff member of the right to report an incident, or who chooses not to report an incident.

Position: Monitor

3. **[HB24-1075: Analysis of Universal Health-Care Payment System](#)**: The bill requires the Colorado school of public health to analyze draft model legislation for implementing a single-payer, nonprofit, publicly financed, and privately delivered universal health-care payment system for Colorado that directly compensates



providers. The Colorado school of public health must submit a report detailing its findings to the general assembly by October 1, 2025. The bill also creates the statewide health-care analysis advisory task force consisting of 21 members appointed by the general assembly and the governor, as well as executive directors of specified state departments, the commissioner of insurance, and the chief executive officer of the Colorado health benefit exchange or any designees of the executive directors, the commissioner, and the chief executive officer. The advisory task force is created for the purpose of advising the Colorado school of public health during the analysis.

4. **HB24-1149, Prior Authorization Requirements Alternatives:** With regard to prior authorization requirements imposed by carriers, private utilization review organizations (organizations), and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) for certain health-care services and prescription drug benefits covered under a health benefit plan, the bill requires carriers, organizations, and PBMs, as applicable, to adopt a program, in consultation with participating providers, to eliminate or substantially modify prior authorization requirements in a manner that removes administrative burdens on qualified providers and their patients with regard to certain health-care services, prescription drugs, or related benefits based on specified criteria. Additionally, a carrier or organization is prohibited from denying a claim for a health-care procedure a provider provides, in addition or related to an approved surgical procedure, under specified circumstances or from denying an initially approved surgical procedure on the basis that the provider provided an additional or a related health-care procedure.

The bill extends the duration of an approved prior authorization for a health-care service or prescription drug benefit from 180 days to a calendar year. Carriers are required to post, on their public-facing websites, specified information regarding:

- a. The number of prior authorization requests that are approved, denied, and appealed;
- b. The number of prior authorization exemptions or alternatives to prior authorization requirements provided pursuant to a program developed and offered by the carrier, an organization, or a PBM; and
- c. The prior authorization requirements as applied to prescription drug formularies for each health benefit plan the carrier or PBM offers.

The bill applies to conduct occurring on or after January 1, 2026.

Position: SUPPORT

5. **HB24-1153, Physician Continuing Education:** The bill establishes a continuing medical education requirement (CME) for physicians licensed in this state.

To meet the CME requirement, a physician must complete 40 credit hours of CME (CME credit hours) in the 24 months preceding the renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation of the physician's medical license in topics selected by the physician and also in topics specified in the bill. The Colorado medical board (board) shall approve the type and sponsors of programs or activities that qualify for CME credit hours pursuant to criteria specified in the bill.

To verify compliance with the CME requirement, the physician shall affirm on the license renewal form submitted to the board that the physician has complied with the CME requirement. The board is also



authorized to audit up to 5% of physician renewals annually and to require that the physician submit proof of the CME programs completed and the CME credit hours awarded. A physician's failure to comply with the CME requirement or to submit proof to the board during a board audit constitutes unprofessional conduct. If the physician fails to comply with the CME requirement, the physician's license is inactive until reinstated by the board. The board may adopt rules to implement the CME requirement. The director of the division of professions and occupations in the department of regulatory agencies shall increase existing fees on physician licensure renewals to cover any additional costs associated with implementing the CME requirement.

Position: OPPOSE

6. **SB24-018, Physician Assistant Licensure Compact:** The bill enacts the "Physician Assistant Licensure Compact" (compact). The compact is designed to enable a physician assistant with a license in a state that has signed the compact (participating state) to more easily become authorized to practice in any other participating state.

Participating states and physician assistants must meet specific conditions enumerated in the compact to participate in the compact. The compact allows only the participating state where a physician assistant is licensed to discipline the physician assistant, but allows a participating state where the physician assistant is practicing, but is not licensed, to revoke the physician assistant's authority to practice in that state.

The bill authorizes the Colorado medical board (board) to promulgate rules and to facilitate Colorado's participation in the compact, including notifying the Compact Commission (commission) established by the compact of any adverse action taken by the board against a physician assistant licensed in Colorado or practicing in Colorado under the compact. The commission includes a delegate from each participating state and has the powers and duties set forth in the bill.

The compact becomes effective on the date the compact is enacted in the seventh participating state.

Position: Monitor

7. **SB24-080, Transparency in Health-Care Coverage:** The bill requires health insurance carriers (carriers) to comply with federal price transparency laws and to make available an internet-based self-service tool that provides real-time responses to a covered person's questions concerning carrier prices that are based on cost-sharing information. The bill also requires carriers to submit information required by federal pharmacy benefit and drug cost reporting laws to the commissioner of insurance. A carrier that violates the requirements of the bill engages in an unfair method of competition and an unfair or deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance.

Position: Monitor

8. **SB24-082, Patient's Right to Provider Identification:** Beginning January 1, 2025, for services or procedures for which informed consent is required and that are being provided or performed in a licensed health-care facility, the bill requires a health-care provider (provider) providing or performing the service or procedure and the provider obtaining informed consent, if a different provider, to disclose to patients, in writing and



through the wearing of a photo identification badge when in a patient's presence, the following identification information relevant to the service or procedure provided or performed:

- a. The provider's name;
- b. The provider's employer and job title;
- c. The provider's academic degree, credentials, or training; and
- d. The provider's professional credential issued by the department of regulatory agencies or a professional board or commission.

Willful or repeated failure to comply with this requirement constitutes unprofessional conduct or grounds for discipline under the law governing the provider's professional license, certificate, or registration. In addition, the bill requires that health-care facilities licensed or certified in this state require that health-care providers comply with the identification and badge requirements.

Position: SUPPORT

This bill will die on the calendar—no further action!

9. **HB24-086: Breast Cancer Screening Fund Transfer**: For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, the bill transfers \$500,000 from the breast and cervical cancer prevention and treatment fund to the breast cancer screening fund. The bill also removes a requirement that the state treasurer transfer interest and income earned on money in the breast and cervical cancer prevention and treatment fund to the disability support fund.

Position: SUPPORT

10. **SB24-093, Continuity of Health-Care Coverage Change**: The bill allows an enrollee in the state Medicaid program or with a private health insurance carrier whose coverage has been terminated or not renewed to receive continued care with the enrollee's same health-care provider or health-care facility under the enrollee's new health benefit plan at the in-network level under the enrollee's new health benefit plan for specified time periods if certain conditions exist.

Position: Monitor

11. **SB24-130, Noneconomic Damages Cap Medical Malpractice**: Existing law limits the amount recoverable for noneconomic damages in medical malpractice actions to \$300,000. Beginning January 1, 2025, the bill incrementally increases the noneconomic damages limitation to \$500,000 over the course of 5 years.

Position: SUPPORT

12. **SB24-163 Arbitration of Health Insurance Claims**: The bill makes changes to the arbitration requirements for out-of-network health insurance claims by requiring the arbitration process to include a batching process, by which multiple claims may be considered jointly and under the same arbitration fee as part of one payment determination in alignment with federal law. The commissioner of insurance is required to promulgate rules that specify the information each insurance carrier is required to submit to a provider with the initial payment of a claim.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM UNDER THE DOME

➤ Full speed, full stop

The Colorado General Assembly was humming along this week – long floor debates on some days, hefty committee calendars every day and the Joint Budget Committee pushing past its traditional 5 p.m. “hard stop” on several days as it struggled to catch up with its posted schedule.

That all came to a screeching halt at mid-afternoon Wednesday, when leadership announced the session would close down Thursday because of the looming “snowpocalypse.”

Lawmakers were scheduled to return to the House and Senate floors at 10:30 Friday morning. A centerpiece of the day was the annual joint session to hear “State of the Tribes” speeches by leaders of the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes.

Beyond that, both chambers had long floor calendars. How many of those bills would be debated was up to the majority leaders and impossible to predict. Both Appropriations committees were still meeting as 10 a.m. passed, pumping more bills onto floor calendars.

The really big event of the day was the 1:30 p.m. March revenue forecasts by legislative and executive branch economists. These are the projections the Joint Budget Committee uses to make its final decisions about the 2024-25 long bill.

Friday was also the deadline for the Commission on Property Tax to issue its recommendations to the General Assembly.

Several bills of note were on the move earlier in the week, some after long floor debate. Those included:

- SB 24-003, which gives CBI broader jurisdiction over gun crimes,
- HB 24-1007, to prohibit local governments imposing residential residency limits,
- SB 24-094, setting standards for rental property habitability,
- HB 24-1174, requiring training to obtain a concealed carry permit, and
- HB 24-1121, the electronics right to repair bill.

It also took some debate, but the Senate approved two controversial gubernatorial appointments to the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Finally, the House passed and governor signed SB 24-157, the measure that changes certain requirements of state open meetings law as it applies to the legislature. The bill sparked lots of hand wringing among media types, however, the sponsors argue the bill mostly just legalizes certain communications between members that have been common practice at the Capitol for decades.

Tallying the bills

The pace of new bills being introduced continues to slow, but here are some measures of interest from this week:

- HB 24-1275 – Imposes requirements on ranchers if they want compensation for livestock losses to wolves
- SB 24-181 - Creates a Colorado Alcohol Impact and Recovery Enterprise in the Department of Revenue to impose fee on alcohol businesses to raise funding for substance use disorder prevention, early intervention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery services and programs
- HB 24-1373 –This would basically put drug stores out of the liquor business, except for beer and wine



- HB 24-1372 – Another progressive Democratic measure to limit law enforcement use of prone restraints.

As of Friday morning, 556 bills had been introduced, 375 in the House and 181 in the Senate. Friday was the 66th day of the 120-day session.

The week for JBC

Joint Budget Committee members on Wednesday patted themselves on the back for “catching up” on their backlog of work. Technically that was true – JBC did catch up with its posted schedule.

However, this ignores the fact that the committee has delayed making decisions on 45 to 50 2024-25 budget requests. With the March revenue forecasts being issued on Friday, JBC members now will need to make up their minds on the 2024-25 budget.

The biggest undecided item still outstanding is funding for the state’s colleges and universities. Gov. Jared Polis proposed a bargain-basement increase for higher education. A unified phalanx of institution presidents proposed “base” funding they say is necessary is to keep the doors open. JBC members are sympathetic, but they do not know how much money they have to spend on higher ed.

Chair Bird has delayed multiple items saying she wanted to see the results of the revenue forecast. But it is unclear what she is hoping for. For several forecast cycles, legislative and executive branch economists have been predicting that revenues would bust through the TABOR cap that requires taxpayer refunds. That was unlikely to change with the March forecasts, so it is likely that the amount of General Fund available for spending in 2024-25 will be about the same as has been estimated in previous forecasts - \$20.8 billion.

The 2024-25 long appropriations bill and its orbital bills are supposed to be introduced in the House on March 25. So, the schedule-challenged JBC, and its hard-pressed staff, will have to sprint next week to finish their work.

One more spending note: The hard-working Legislative Council staff tracks the price tags (i.e. fiscal notes) of pending bills. They’re able to do only periodic updates; here’s the Feb. 2 report - Fiscal notes status – http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/fiscal_notes_data_report_-_fy_24-25_only_-_feb_26.pdf

A quick review of the first half of session

Now that lawmakers are into the second half of their 120-day session, it is worth taking a quick look at what has been accomplished in the first half.

Sen. Bob Gardner, R-Colorado Springs, a man known for prolonging many a floor debate, summed it up for his colleagues last Monday, saying, “It’s all uphill from here.”

So, what is the status of key issues at this point? Here is a quick summary by topic.

Education funding – There is no question that lawmakers will eliminate the widely disliked Budget Stabilization Factor for K-12 schools. But still to be determined are funding for special education, revenue for the BEST school construction grants program, emergency aid for school districts impacted by immigrant students and to what extent lawmakers will push for enactment of any of the funding formula reforms proposed by an expert panel in January.

Environment – Various and mostly Democratic sponsors have introduced a lot of bills related to environmental justice (HBs 1338 and 1339), modifications for air quality permitting (HB 1330), broadening the powers of the Energy and Carbon Management Commission (HB 1346), pipeline safety (HB 1357), repealing tax exemptions for stripper wells (HB



1367) and restrictions on oil and gas drilling (SB 165). Most are still waiting their first committee hearings, so this is a big issue that is yet to get moving. Senate Democratic leadership has signaled the drilling ban will not go anywhere.

Firearms control – This was not necessarily expected to be a major issue this session, but it has turned out to be. Measures to require training for concealed carry permits (HB 1174) and expand the power of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to investigate firearms crimes (SB 003) already have sparked long floor debates in both chambers. A proposed assault weapons ban (HB 1292) expects many hurdles for passage. The most sweeping measure, a proposal to ban carrying of guns on most public places (SB 131), has not yet had a hearing.

Housing & land use – More than 40 bills related to this issue have been introduced. Several seek to revive parts of Gov. Jared Polis’ massive – and unsuccessful – 2023 proposal to reduce local governments’ control of land use. Important measures include a ban on residential occupancy limits (HB 1007), promotion of accessory dwelling units (HB 1152 and SB 54), easing of local government parking requirements (HB 1304), transit-oriented housing development (HB 1313) and construction defects (SB 106), plus measures to improve land-use planning, several renters’ rights bills and proposals to limit the powers of HOAs. Bills on this subject seem to be moving a bit more quickly than measures on other issues.

Property tax relief – This may be the biggest question mark about the session’s second half. A property tax study committee created by the November 2023 legislative session is due to report its recommendations on Friday, leaving lawmakers less than two months to decide what, if anything, to do about those suggestions.

Here are some statistics on bills. (These numbers were compiled early in the week, so exact numbers have changed. But this gives you an idea of where things stand.)

Introduced - 556 bills combined in House and Senate (expect a few dozen more, particularly when the 2024-25 budget package is introduced March 25).

Finished - 43 bills have been signed by the governor or become law (almost all of these were “supplementals,” the midyear budget adjustments).

Dead - 44 bills have been postponed indefinitely.

Still pending – About 465 bills. Of those:

- About 143 bills are still awaiting their first committee hearings in their chamber of origin.
- Some 322 bills have made some progress.
- About 40 Senate bills have moved to the House, and at least 68 House bills have moved to the Senate.
- At least 90 bills are held up in the House and Senate appropriations committees.

News links:

- Proposed “fee” on liquor businesses would raise funds for addiction treatment (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2024/03/13/colorado-legislature-alcohol-fee-addiction/>
- Polis signs legislative open meetings bill (CO Pols) - https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/gov-jared-polis-signs-bill-exempting-lawmakers-from-open-meetings-law/article_87addf4a-e0de-11ee-8029-23ae5f48c2d6.html
- Gun bills advance in both chambers (CO Pols) - https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/bills-banning-leaving-firearms-in-cars-expanding-cbis-investigative-authority-to-guns-win-approval-in/article_fe7650d0-e174-11ee-b43f-d3b62fa4daa9.html

All of this week’s news links

Thursday, March 14

- Rental car fee could fund rail projects (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2024/03/14/colorado-rental-car-fee-increase-passenger-rail/>



- Tax credit bills stacking up at Capitol (CPR) - <https://www.cpr.org/2024/03/14/why-bipartisan-bill-to-repay-colorado-teachers-for-school-supplies-could-fail/>
- Common Sense Institute claims big tax revenue losses if drilling limits approved (CO Pols) - <https://www.cpr.org/2024/03/14/why-bipartisan-bill-to-repay-colorado-teachers-for-school-supplies-could-fail/>
- Advocates worry about tight funding for senior services (CO Pols) - https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/colorado-programs-for-older-residents-face-major-funding-shortfalls/article_823b06ec-e164-11ee-9a72-afeb24e48c2e.html
- Gun bills advance in both chambers (CO Pols) - https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/bills-banning-leaving-firearms-in-cars-expanding-cbis-investigative-authority-to-guns-win-approval-in/article_fe7650d0-e174-11ee-b43f-d3b62fa4daa9.html

Wednesday, March 13

- Stack of gun bills on calendars this week and next (CO Pols) - https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/colorado-lawmakers-to-tackle-slew-of-gun-bills-including-prohibition-of-guns-in-sensitive-places/article_a4ff823e-dfde-11ee-a0d6-bb51bbce6cad.html
- Recycling plan mandated by 2022 law could be costlier than predicted (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2024/03/13/colorado-recycling-expansion-costs-critics/>
- Two controversial wildlife commissioners conformed by Senate (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2024/03/12/colorado-parks-wildlife-commissioners-confirmed/>
- Legislative aides at odds with leadership over wages (CPR) - <https://www.cpr.org/2024/03/12/colorado-legislative-aides-ask-for-wage-increase/>
- Polis signs legislative open meetings bill (CO Pols) - https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/gov-jared-polis-signs-bill-exempting-lawmakers-from-open-meetings-law/article_87addf4a-e0de-11ee-8029-23ae5f48c2d6.html
- Right-to-repair bill passes House (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2024/03/13/cellphone-repairs-bill-colorado-legislature/>
- Proposed “fee” on liquor businesses would raise funds for addiction treatment (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2024/03/13/colorado-legislature-alcohol-fee-addiction/>
- “Forever chemicals” bill would expand list of banned products (Sum & Substance) - <https://tssc Colorado.com/proposal-expands-list-of-products-made-with-forever-chemicals-that-would-be-banned/>

Tuesday, March 12

- Legislative open meetings law heads to governor’s desk (CO Pols) - https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/bill-exempting-colorado-lawmakers-from-open-meeting-laws-heads-to-governors-desk/article_28cf1204-dfc7-11ee-a0eb-e74e2f0f595d.html
- Lawmakers eye regulation of dating apps (CO Pols) - https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/colorado-lawmakers-eye-regulation-of-dating-apps-to-prevent-assault-rape/article_945257e6-dfbf-11ee-a165-9fa4e86363ab.html

Saturday, March 9 – Monday, March 11

- Polis environmental justice proposals on hold (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2024/03/11/colorado-environmental-justice-inspectors-polis/>
- Inside the candidates-with-disabilities bill (CPR) - <https://www.cpr.org/2024/03/11/ballot-access-caucuses-candidates-disabilities/>
- Concealed weapons training bill pushed ahead (CO Pols) - https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/colorado-house-democrats-push-concealed-weapons-training-bill-forward/article_8648c58e-dd87-11ee-9a83-2b39eb22b19c.html
- County commissioners bill gutted (CO Pols) - https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/payback-democrats-gut-then-reject-party-mates-proposal-on-county-commissioners/article_31195f92-dd78-11ee-8f51-1723e840fcb5.html



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- Bill would set mandatory minimum sentences for human trafficking (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2024/03/11/colorado-human-trafficking-mandatory-minimum-prison-bill/>
- Lawmakers seek to fix childcare subsidy program (Chalkbeat) - <https://www.chalkbeat.org/colorado/2024/03/08/colorado-legislature-considers-child-care-subsidy-bill/>
- Addiction treatment providers cite BHA failures (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2024/03/10/colorado-behavioral-health-administration-grants-arpa/>
- Four possible fixes rising to top of tax commission discussions (Sum & Substance) - <https://tsscolorado.com/four-long-term-property-tax-fixes-rising-to-top-of-special-commissions-discussions/>
- Data center subsidy bill delayed (Big Pivots) - <https://bigpivots.com/data-center-subsidy-bill-postponed/>