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Legislative Letter

January 28, 2019

LL#2:1

COLORADO HEALTH CARE

The Colorado legislature sprang into action with a host of health-care bills as the 2019 session opened. The message in the bills was consistent – let’s get the costs of health care down in Colorado and let’s protect consumer access and quality in health care. Some areas of the state have health insurance premiums well in excess of 20% of family income, exacerbated by ever-increasing annual deductibles and uncovered out-of-pocket expenses. It is no wonder legislators are calling current health-care pricing “outrageous.” Pricing that causes an even greater burden for rural Coloradans with geographic area discrimination and pricing that includes age ratings (and thus a threat to an aging population) are important parts of the health-care cost crisis. Soaring costs of prescription drugs, however, affect children to seniors, insured and uninsured, those with employer-contributed health plans, those with government supported coverage, and those in the individual market.

Early bills introduced in both the Colorado House and the Colorado Senate emphasized the need for cost transparency and analysis. **NEW** **HB 1001 Hospital Transparency Measures to Analyze Efficacy (Rep. Kennedy; Sens. Moreno & Rankin) (support)** passed Health & Insurance committee [8-2](#) and is scheduled for Second Reading on January 28. **SB 015 Create Statewide Health Care Review Committee (Sen. Ginal; Rep. Beckman) (support)** passed the Health & Human Services committee [4-1](#) and has been sent to Appropriations.

Prescription drug cost control and competition is targeted in **SB 005 Import Prescription Drugs from Canada (Sens. Rodriguez & Ginal; Rep. Jaquez Lewis) (support)**. It is scheduled to be heard January 31 in Health & Human Services.

Pilot programs that have been successful are recommended for expansion. **(SB 001 Expand Medication-assisted Treatment Pilot Program (Sen. Garcia; None) (support)** is scheduled to be heard February 7 in Health & Human Services. A pilot program that could yield interesting data for health care models is proposed in **SB 004 Address High-Cost Health Insurance Pilot Program (Sen. Donovan; Rep. Roberts) (support)**. It is not yet scheduled in Health & Human Services.

A program that drives up health care costs is recommended for oversight by **HB 1010 Free Standing Emergency Departments Licensure (Reps. Mullica & Landgraf; Gardner) (support)**. The bill passed the Health & Insurance and Finance committees unanimously and has been referred to Appropriations.

Innovation is apparent in another bill. **HB 1004 Proposal for Affordable Health Coverage Option (Reps. Roberts & Catlin; Sen. Donovan) (support)** passed Health & Insurance [9-2](#) and was sent to Appropriations. A **NEW** bill, **SB 098 Cost-based Reimbursement for Rural Hospitals (Sen Crowder; None) (watch)** requires the state medical assistance program to pay the full cost of outpatient hospital services to some rural hospitals. This is one bill that may not reduce costs. It has been referred to the Finance committee.

It is important to note that many of these bills have bipartisan sponsorship and bipartisan support on committee votes. The League is pleased to see both parties working together to solve some important problems in the health-care area.

The Governor has issued an executive order for establishment of the Office for Saving People Money in Health Care and has asked for initial funding from the legislature as well. Health care costs and pricing stands to be a significant issue in the 2019 Colorado legislature and likely around the nation.

(All these bills, except those noted as **New**, were reported in [LL#1](#), pp. 10-11.)

Carol Pace 303.863.0437

GOVERNMENT

ELECTIONS

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE AGREEMENT

SB 042 National Popular Vote (Sen. Foote; Rep. Sirota; Rep. Arndt) (support) This bill, aimed at ensuring that the winner of the popular vote becomes President, passed out of the Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs committee and was referred un-amended to the full Senate. The committee vote was [3-2](#).

The bill was heard in committee on Wednesday, January 23rd. The testimony went from 2:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Most of the testimony was in support of the bill, although there was also quite a bit of opposition. The League testified early on in a panel of three in favor of the bill. Many other LWV members also gave testimony in support of the bill. It was encouraging to see so many LWV members come from far distances in support of this bill: e.g., Fort Collins, Buena Vista, Longmont, Boulder.

The bill is scheduled for Second Reading on January 28th.

Previously reported: [LL#1](#), p. 7.

Linda Sorauf 720.593.8678

ELECTION DAY A HOLIDAY?

NEW **HB 1056 Election Day Holiday in Place of Columbus Day (Rep. Benavidez; Sen. Gonzales) (watch)** will make Election Day a state legal holiday on the first Tuesday in November in odd numbered years, or the Tuesday after the first Monday in even numbered years. To maintain the number of state holidays at ten (10), the bill replaces the holiday of the second Monday in October, commonly known as Columbus Day with the new Election Day holiday. While promising the replacement of Columbus Day "...does not take away from the recognition of the Italian-American community and its contributions to the state," the bill declares the result as an effort to foster greater participation in elections, particularly by state employees, and to make voting easier and more accessible to all residents of the state. A hearing in House State Affairs has been scheduled for January 31, 2019.

Under current law, Election Day will occur any day from November 2 to November 8. Employees are allowed two hours of paid leave on Election Day to vote in statewide and local elections.

Arguments currently circulating against this proposal point to two issues presented, whether Election Day should be a holiday and whether

Columbus Day can or should be repealed. In addition, some argue the importance of voting may become a lower priority when compared to holiday activities. Others argue Election Day should occur on a weekend day as in other countries. Although LWV remains dedicated to protecting voting rights, assuring voting accessibility, and improving elections, it recognizes the seriousness of possible arguments and reserves our support.

Fern Black 303.793.0807

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

HB 1007 Contribution Limits For County Offices (Rep. Sirota; None) (support) establishes campaign contribution limits for candidates for county offices. The bill was amended in House State Affairs to specify that write-in, unaffiliated, or minor party candidates not running in a primary may accept the aggregate contribution limit (\$2,500 from an individual). The amended version passed out of House State Affairs to House Appropriations on a vote of [6-3](#).

Previously reported: [LL#1](#), p. 7.

Peggy Leech 303.666.4720

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/RENTER PROTECTIONS

NEW HB 1106 Rental Application Fees (Reps. Titone & Gonzales-Gutierrez; Sen. Pettersen) (support) This bill prohibits a landlord from charging a rental application fee unless the entire amount of the fee is used to cover the landlord's cost to process a rental application, such as the cost to conduct a personal reference check or to obtain a consumer credit report. Landlords may not charge two or more prospective renters different amounts for applications to rent the same property. Landlords must provide each prospective tenant with written notice of the tenant selection criteria and the grounds upon which a rental application may be denied prior to charging an application fee. Finally, this bill requires that a landlord provide a

prospective tenant with specified notifications if the landlord rejects or places additional requirements in a rental application (adverse action) after reviewing and evaluating the rental application.

The bill promotes equal access to housing opportunities.

The bill is assigned to Business Affairs and Labor and is scheduled to be heard on February 5.

NEW HB 1118 Time Period to Cure Lease Violation (Reps. Jackson & Galindo; Sen. Williams) (support) Under current law a tenant is given 3 days to pay unpaid rent or vacate the property before a landlord may begin eviction proceedings. This bill requires that a landlord provide 14 days notice of insufficient rent prior to beginning eviction proceedings and 14 days notice prior to terminating a lease agreement for a subsequent violation of terms.

The bill amends the time period for eviction from three days to 14 days in the Colorado Revised Statutes, section 13-40-104, to allow a tenant additional time to cure unpaid rent and terminate an eviction proceeding. The bill would allow additional time for tenants to negotiate for proper maintenance and management of facilities and would not preclude the landlord from charging and collecting late fees for overdue rent.

The bill is assigned to Business Affairs and Labor and scheduled to be heard on February 6.

Both reported by Kathy Smith 303.278.8025

OK TO REST?

NEW HB 1096 Colorado Right to Rest (Rep. Melton; None) (support in part) would create the "Colorado Right to Rest Act," which establishes basic rights for people experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the right to rest in public spaces, to shelter themselves from the elements, to eat or accept food in any public space where food is not prohibited, to occupy a legally parked vehicle, and to have a reasonable expectation of privacy for their property.

The bill prohibits discrimination based on housing status.

It creates an exemption of the basic right to rest for people experiencing homelessness for any county, city, municipality, or subdivision that can demonstrate that, for three consecutive months, the waiting lists for all local public housing authorities contain fewer than 50 people.

HB 1092 allows the General Assembly to appropriate money from the marijuana tax cash fund to the Department of Local Affairs for the purpose of enabling governmental entities that do not meet the exemption requirements to reduce the housing waiting lists to fewer than 50 people for at least 6 months per year.

The bill allows any person whose rights have been violated to seek enforcement in a civil action.

The League supports individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution, policies that support equality of opportunity for housing for all people, and policies to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for all families. This bill aligns with these principles; however, we urge the legislature to also pursue comprehensive solutions to improve housing affordability and accessibility in Colorado.

This bill has been assigned to the House Transportation & Local Government committee.

Jo Feder 904.68.3932

FISCAL POLICY

REDUCE STATE INCOME TAX RATE

NEW **SB 55 Reduce State Income Tax Rate (Sen. Sonnenberg; Rep. Pelton) (oppose)** This bill reduces both the individual and the corporate state income tax rate from 4.63% to 4.49% and reduces the state alternative minimum tax by 0.14%, for income tax years commencing on or after Jan. 1, 2019.

This bill uses projected gains in revenue subject to TABOR in FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 and near historically-high confidence in strong economic growth in Colorado to justify ratcheting down the state income tax rate.

The League has carefully watched proposals that would reduce revenue since the passage of Article X, Section 20 (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) because of its ramifications for both state and local governments. The League opposes the bill because it unnecessarily reduces state revenue.

In addition:

1. There is significant risk in the bill. If the state income tax rate were to be reduced but the projected gains are not realized, it would be extremely difficult to restore the tax rate to 4.63%, requiring a vote of the people. A temporary reduction in rates would be more prudent.

2. The League supports tax equity. If it is necessary to reduce a tax rate, it would be better to reduce the sales tax rate than the income tax rate. Sales tax is regressive.

3. The bill fails to consider unfunded and underfunded state obligations in areas of priority interest to the League, including transportation, school finance, health care, housing, and income assistance.

4. This legislative session may produce big changes in Colorado's revenue system. Taking permanent action at this point in the session seems premature.

The bill is assigned to Senate Finance to be heard on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Harry Hempy 303.459.0172

GUN SAFETY

DEADLY FORCE BILL KILLED

NEW **HB 1022 Deadly Force against Intruder at a Business (Rep. Sandridge; None) (oppose)** This bill would have allowed deadly force against anyone who had made an illegal entry to a business that a business owner or employee believed was intending to commit a crime and might use any amount of force toward an owner, employee or customer. It was heard in the House State Affairs Committee for the 14th time on January 24 and was PI'd on a vote of 6 to 3. Of those testifying, there were 3 who were for the bill and 7 against.

Jean Fredlund 303.428.5420

LIMITED MAGAZINES REMAIN THE LAW

NEW **HB 1021 Repeal Ammunition Magazine Prohibition (Rep. Saine & Humphrey; None) (oppose)** This bill, presented for the 6th time, would have allowed gun magazines up to 100 rounds or more to be sold and/or possessed. It was heard in the House State Affairs Committee on January 24 and was PI'd on a vote of 6 to 3. Of those testifying, there were 4 people for the repeal and 9 against.

Jean Fredlund 303.428.5420

CONCEALED HANDGUNS NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOLS

NEW **HB 1049 Concealed Handguns on School Grounds (Rep. Neville; None) (oppose)** Introduced for the 6th time, this legislation would have allowed anyone, including parents or strangers, who had a concealed carry permit, to carry a gun in any school in the state. It was heard in the House State Affairs Committee on January 24 and was PI'd on a vote of 6 to 3. Of those testifying, there were 6 for the bill and 15 against.

Jean Fredlund 303.428.5420

JUSTICE SYSTEM

CIVIL REMEDY FOR INTIMATE IMAGES DISCLOSURE

NEW **SB 100 Unauthorized Disclosure of Intimate Images Act (Sen. Gardner; none) (support)** This bill would create the “Uniform Civil Remedies for Unauthorized Disclosure of Intimate Images Act” by adding part 14 to Article 21 of Title 13 of the CRS. The Act would create a cause of action for individuals who have suffered harm as a result of threatened disclosure or intentional disclosure of an intimate image without the individual’s consent, subject to specific circumstances outlined in the bill.

The bill also provides for certain exceptions to a civil action, including exemptions for parents of the depicted individual who disclosure images for purposes other than sexual purposes, humiliation, degradation, or monetary or commercial gain.

The bill establishes limits on damages that a plaintiff can recover and subjects actions to a 4-year statute of limitations.

The league supports policies that protect individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution, including an individual’s right to privacy.

This bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs committee on February 6.

Andrea Wilkins 303.521.1759

HUMAN TRAFFICKING BILL PASSES HOUSE JUDICIARY

NEW **HB 1051 CDPS Human Trafficking-related Training (Reps. Carver & McLachlan; Sens. Gardner & Ginal) (support)** passed unanimously out of House Judiciary on January 17 and was sent to House Appropriations.

The bill requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to provide human trafficking training to law enforcement agencies and to organizations and

individuals who provide services to the victims of human trafficking. Priority is to be given to the training requests that come from areas in the state that have limited access to such training.

This bill will provide the training and education that we believe is crucial for raising awareness of the presence of human trafficking in our communities and helping to provide appropriate support and services to the victims. We agree that priority should be given to requests from parts of the state that have not had adequate access to this type of training.

The bill has a fiscal impact to DPS of \$85,287 and 0.8 FTE in FY 2019/20 and \$95,376 and 1 FTE in FY 2020/21.

Carla Bennett 303.757.2930

NATURAL RESOURCES

ENERGY

COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS

HB 1003 Community Solar Gardens Modernization Act (Rep. Hansen; None) (support) This bill would expand the permitted size of “community solar gardens” (large arrays of photovoltaic cells serving multiple users) and ease restrictions on who would be allowed to participate in the electricity generated by the “garden.”

The bill was heard in Energy & Environment Committee and passed to the Appropriations committee on a vote of [7-3](#).

The bill passed with amendments:

- To change the maximum capacity from 10 megawatts to 5 megawatts. This will facilitate integration into the grid and interconnections. The “footprint” is not an issue.
- To extend tax exemptions for solar installations to year 2026; these are currently set to expire in 2021.

- To assure that installations and operations for CSG exceeding 2 megawatts will be performed by qualified electrical workers.

Previously reported: [LL#1](#), p. 9.

Ann Sutton 303.903.2097
Amy Sherwood 847.239.0236

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

LET’S BASE CLIMATE ACTIONS ON DATA

NEW SB 96 Collect Long Term Climate Change Data (Sen. Donovan; Rep. Hansen) (support)

This bill requires the Air Quality Control Commission in the Department of Public Health and Environment to collect greenhouse gas emissions data from greenhouse gas-emitting entities, report on the data, include a forecast of future emissions, and propose a draft rule to address emissions by July 1, 2020.

Due to current insufficient evidence, Colorado is unable to measure progress toward Governor Hickenlooper’s 2017 goals for reducing greenhouse gas emission or identify effective methods for reducing those emissions. Under this bill emission data collection would be accurate and available to the public. The collection would also track emissions for reduction progress for current and future targets. The commission will submit rules by December 30, 2019 on emitting entities that need to report and the measures to be collected and reported yearly. By July 2020 it will publish a notice of rules. This will allow local jurisdictions to improve the quality of their emissions.

The division will forecast Colorado's Greenhouse Gas Emissions for every year through 2050 using three forecast scenarios (no statewide action, low level of statewide action, and high level of statewide action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions) and taking into account estimates of: population growth, housing, mobility, and other demographic criteria. All information will be released to the public.

According to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and the National Climate Assessment Report, there is no longer time to waste in taking immediate action on climate change. The American Medical Association, the American Lung Association, the World Health Organization, the National Institutes of Health, and the American Academy of Pediatrics warn of the many health hazards that now exist due to the lack of action on climate change.

League supports bold and ambitious legislation to address climate change in a serious manner. This bill has been assigned to Senate Transportation and Energy. No hearing date has been set.

Amy Sherwood 847.239.0236
Jeannette Hillery 303.494.7718

LOCAL RECYCLING RULES?

NEW SB 34 Government Recycling Standards for Food Containers (Senator Moreno; Rep. J. Arndt) (watch) This bill allows a local government the authority to establish standards for the use of discardable food containers and establish standards for the use of ready-to-eat food containers that may be discarded through recycling or composting. Currently, state law preempts local governments from restricting or mandating containers for any consumer products.

Plastic production has doubled every decade since 1950 until today. Plastic global production amounts to 9.2 billion tons. Forty percent of all plastic waste is single use. Plastic poses a health threat to all living species. Plastic should be replaced by natural biodegradable products. This bill attempts a solution to a large problem that needs to be solved on a more uniform scale for the entire state of Colorado as League has lobbied for in the past. However, each level of government should recognize its responsibility to make decisions that protect our resources and lives. League supports policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid wastes as well as policies to ensure safe treatment, transport, storage and disposal of wastes to protect public health, air, water and land resources.

We remain unsure of the practicality of this legislation.

The bill is scheduled for a Feb. 5th hearing in the Senate Local Government Committee.

Amy Sherwood 847.239.023
Ann Sutton 303.903.2097

WATER

PROTECT OUR WATER

NEW HB 1113 Protect Water Quality Adverse Mining Impacts (Reps. Roberts &, McLachlan) (support) The history of mining impacts on the environment has been long documented. One area of mitigation to mining impacts is the reliance on perpetual water treatment systems to minimize impacts to water quality in a reclamation area. This bill is asking for most reclamation plans to demonstrate with evidence an end date for any water quality treatment necessary to ensure compliance with standards. Under current law, a mining permittee submits an audited financial statement as proof that there are sufficient funds to meet reclamation. This bill eliminates the self-bonding and requires that reclamation bonds include financial assurances in an amount to protect water quality. The cleanup of mining sites that have impacted water bodies has been a burden on the state. This bill will start to direct the reclamation to the appropriate parties and require adequate financial coverage. The League is a longtime supporter of improved water quality and appropriate financial coverage. The bill will be heard in the House Rural Affairs and Agriculture Committee on February 4.

CLARIFYING WATER RULES

NEW HB 1071 CDPHE Water Quality Control (Rep. McKean; Sen. Zenzinger) (support) During the upcoming session the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is asking that obsolete provisions in the Water Quality Control section be eliminated. This bill clarifies that the State Board of Health is not required to approve a joint operating agreement

between a municipality and an industrial enterprise for work relating to sewerage facilities. It also clarifies that the board of directors of a water conservancy district must comply with the rules of the Water Quality Control Commission. CDPHE has oversight of all water and wastewater facilities and provides permitting and oversight. The bill passed the House Energy and Environment committee unanimously and is scheduled for Second Reading on January 28.

Both reported by Jeannette Hillery 303.494.7718

CONSERVE WATER

NEW **HB 1050 Encourage Use of Xeriscape in Common Areas (Rep. Titone; Sen. Priola) (support)** This bill prevents a homeowners association (HOA) from prohibiting the use of drought-tolerant landscaping in common areas of a covenant-controlled community. It would also extend existing water conservation requirements to special districts managing parkland and open space.

Under current law, a restrictive covenant of an HOA may not prohibit an individual owner from the use of xeriscape or drought-tolerant landscaping. The bill extends this policy to common areas under the control of the covenant community's governing board and specifies that special districts are not exempt from the water conservation law concerning xeriscape landscaping.

This bill is helpful in conserving Colorado water by encouraging the adoption and enforcement of drought-tolerant landscapes. The League is a long supporter of water efficiency and the use of xeriscape to promote outdoor water conservation. The bill passed the House Energy and Environment Committee [8-2](#) after a clarifying amendment. It passed Second Reading on January 25.

Amy Sherwood 847.239.0236
Jeannette Hillery 303.494.7718

SOCIAL POLICY

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SUPPORT FOR RECOVERY

NEW **HB 1009 Substance Use Disorders Recovery (Reps. Kennedy & Singer; Sens. Priola & Pettersen) (support)** This bill provides support for persons recovering from substance use disorders by expanding a program in the Department of Local Affairs that provides vouchers for housing assistance to certain individuals, requiring each recovery residence operating in Colorado to be licensed by the Department of Public Health and Environment, and creating the opioid crisis recovery fund.

The bill expands the housing voucher program currently within the Department of Local Affairs to include individuals with a substance use disorder and appropriates \$43 million each of the next 5 fiscal years to support the program.

A hearing is scheduled on this bill in the House Public Health Care & Human Services committee on February 6.

Jo Feder 904.608.3932

CONTROLLING YOUR TREATMENT

NEW **HB 1044 Advance Behavioral Health Orders Treatment (Rep. Kraft-Tharp & Landgraf; Sen. Todd & Coram) (support).** Existing law protects the right of adults to specify in advance the treatments they wish to receive from a healthcare provider, based on their treatment history and preferences.

This bill creates a similar advance order for behavioral health orders for scope of treatment so that an adult may communicate his or her behavioral health history, decisions, and preferences. The League supports this bill as it attempts to reach parity with other health care decision making. The bill is also supported by Mental Health Colorado. The bill passed the Public

Health Care and Human Services committee unanimously after amendments that clarified that the advance directive could not exempt the adult from an emergency procedure or involuntary commitment. It then passed Second Reading on January 24 and is scheduled for Third Reading on January 28.

EXPANDED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

NEW SB 010 Professional Behavioral Health Services for Schools (Sen. Fields; Rep. McLachlan, D Valdez) (support) This bill expands the Behavioral Healthcare Professional Matching Grant Program to provide behavioral health care services in schools. It requests that the Department of Education prioritize grant applications from schools based on need and requires applicants to specify the extent that a school or district has seen an increase in activities or incidents that contribute to increased need. It increases the amount the Department of Education can allocate for this program and allows districts to enter into agreements to implement evidence-based programs to support positive school environments, implement strategies to reduce suspensions and expulsions and alternatives to suspension and expulsion.

The League supports this bill under its position for improved school financing and its behavioral health position, which includes support for early and affordable diagnosis and treatment for children and youth.

This bill has been assigned to the Senate Health & Human Services committee.

Both reported by Marcia Marshall 410.271.3420

EDUCATION

COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH

NEW HB 1032 Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education (Rep. Lontine; Sens. Todd & Coram) (support) Current law under CRS

section 22-1-128 requires that schools that offer sex education instruction must provide comprehensive sex education as defined by Colorado law. This bill amends the current statute to more clearly delineate the definitions, guidelines, and content standards that must be followed. The bill expands protection and inclusion by extending the rights therein to all students regardless of immigration status. It also extends greater protection to and inclusion of LGBTQ individuals by prohibiting the use of shame-based or stigmatizing language or instruction as well as the use of gender norms or gender stereotypes. The bill prohibits schools from excluding the relational and sexual experiences of LGBT individuals. The guidelines require medically accurate, age-appropriate, culturally sensitive instruction and inclusion of positive youth development framework. The bill expands guidelines to include instruction on consent, preventing relationship violence, and the promotion of healthy relationships. It prohibits explicit or implicit teaching or endorsement of religious ideology or sectarian tenets or doctrines. If instruction is not comprehensive as defined, it is a violation of state law.

HB 1032 also amends the corresponding grant program in Article 44 of Title 25 to expand oversight and prioritize grant applications from rural and other public schools that do not currently offer comprehensive sex education. It expands oversight by requiring annual reports regarding outcomes of the grant program and by adding eight representatives to the oversight body. It further requires that the oversight membership include at least seven members from groups who have been or may be discriminated against.

The League supports the right of individuals to make informed reproductive choices. The League also supports equal opportunity in education which includes health education. Measures proven to reduce teen pregnancies contribute to higher educational success and graduation rates.

The bill has been assigned to the House Health & Insurance committee and is set for hearing January 30 at 1:30.

Kimberly Grogan 303.279.2778

SCHOOL DISTRICTS MUST FOLLOW LAWS

NEW SB 033 Automatic Law Waivers for School Districts (Sen. Hill; None) (oppose) This bill would have allowed rural school districts to waive certain rules and statutes automatically, without applying to the State Board of Education. There was concern that this might allow such things as concealed carry of guns in schools. This was clarified during the hearing of the Senate State Affairs Committee on January 14, but there was still concern that local District Boards, not the Legislature, would be able to decide which laws the schools needed to follow. The bill was PI'd [3-2](#).

Jean Fredlund 303.428.5420

MORE TEACHERS

NEW SB 9 Financial Incentives for Rural Educators (Sen. Todd; Reps. McLachlan & Wilson) (Support) Colorado currently has a program to pay stipends to students who are enrolled in teacher preparation programs and agree to teach in a rural school or a rural school district for at least two years. This bill removes the limit to the numbers of stipends and increases amount of stipend to \$4,000.

Last year there were 148 applicants when the limit was 40. League supports the removal of the limit on the number of stipends and believes the monetary increase from \$2,800 to \$4,000 will facilitate recruitment of teachers for rural school districts.

This bill passed the Education Committee unanimously and moved to the full Senate on January 24. It is scheduled for Second Reading on January 29th.

NEW SB 3 Educator Loan Forgiveness Program (Sens. Coram & Zenzinger; Reps. McLachlan & Wilson) (support) This bill renames the teacher loan forgiveness program and revises the eligibility criteria. This program repays up to \$5,000 of qualified education loans for up to 5 years for teachers and other educators employed in qualified positions. It targets those employed in

hard-to-fill positions due to geography or content area.

The League supports this bill because it addresses the state teacher shortage. It provides incentives for recruiting and retaining educators with the possibility of \$25,000 loan forgiveness over a 5-year period. The Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education are overseeing this program.

This bill passed the Education Committee [3-2](#) and moved to Appropriations on January 24.

Both reported by:
Patty Cordova 303.388.0012
Helen Tuttle 720.308.5903

HEALTH CARE

MATERNAL MORTALITY

NEW HB 1122 CDPHE Maternal Mortality Review Committee (Rep. Buckner & Landgraf; Sen. Fields & Gardner) (support) This bill creates a maternal mortality review committee, which will be required to review maternal deaths, identify the causes of maternal mortality, and develop recommendations to address preventable maternal deaths, including legislation, policies, rules, and best practices. The chief medical officer of the Department of Public Health and Environment is directed to appoint a minimum of 11 members to serve on the committee.

This bill is timely as there is new attention being paid to the issue of maternal mortality. The League supports this effort at improving maternal health care.

The bill has been assigned to the House Public Health Care and Human Services committee.

Marcia Marshall 410.271.3420

STATUS SHEET

The Status Sheet is a regularly updated list of bills being followed by Legislative Action Committee members. New bills are in **boldface**.

S=Support O=Oppose SIP=Support in Part OIP=Oppose in Part W=Watch or Monitor

Policy Area	S/H	Bill #	Bill Title	S/O	LL#	Status
Behavioral Health	SB	10	Profl Behavioral Health Services For Schools	S	2	S-App
Behavioral Health	HB	1009	Substance Use Disorders Recovery	S	2	H-PHCHS
Behavioral Health	HB	1044	Advance Behavioral Health Orders Treatment	S	2	H-3rd Rdg
Education	SB	3	Educator Loan Forgiveness Program	S	2	S-App
Education	SB	9	Financial Incentives For Rural Educators	S	2	S-2nd Rdg
Education	SB	33	Automatic Law Waivers For School Districts	O	2	PI'd
Education	HB	1032	Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education	S	2	H-HI
Elections	SB	42	National Popular Vote	S	1,2	S-2nd Rdg
Elections	HB	1007	Contribution Limits For County Offices	S	1,2	H-App
Elections	HB	1056	Election Day Holiday In Place Of Columbus Day	W	2	H-SVM
Energy	HB	1003	Community Solar Gardens Modernization Act	S	1,2	H-App
Environmental Quality	SB	34	Local Gov Recycling Standards For Food Containers	W	2	S-LG
Environmental Quality	SB	53	California Motor Vehicle Emission Standards	O	1	S-HHS
Environmental Quality	SB	96	Collect Long-term Climate Change Data	S	2	S-T&E
Equal Opportunity	HB	1096	Colorado Right To Rest	S	2	H-TLG
Equal Opportunity	HB	1106	Rental Application Fees	S	2	H-BAL
Equal Opportunity	HB	1118	Time Period To Cure Lease Violation	S	2	H-BAL
Fiscal Policy	SB	55	Reduce State Income Tax Rate	O	2	S-Fin
Gun Safety	HB	1021	Repeal Ammunition Magazine Prohibition	O	2	PI'd
Gun Safety	HB	1022	Deadly Force Against Intruder At A Business	O	2	PI'd
Gun Safety	HB	1049	Concealed Handguns On School Grounds	O	2	PI'd
Health Care	SB	1	Expand Medication-assisted Treatment Pilot Program	S	1,2	S-HHS
Health Care	SB	4	Address High-cost Hlth Insurance Pilot Program	S	1,2	S-HHS
Health Care	SB	5	Import Prescription Drugs From Canada	S	1,2	S-HHS
Health Care	SB	15	Create Statewide Health Care Review Committee	S	1,2	S-App
Health Care	SB	98	Cost-based Reimbursement For Rural Hospitals	W	2	S-Fin

Health Care	HB	1001	Hospital Transparency Measures To Analyze Efficacy	S	2	H-2nd Rdg
Health Care	HB	1004	Proposal For Affordable Health Coverage Option	S	1,2	H-App
Health Care	HB	1010	Freestanding Emergency Departments Licensure	S	1,2	H-App
Health Care	HB	1122	CDPHE Maternal Mortality Review Committee	S	2	H-PHCHS
Justice System	SB	8	Substance Use Disorder Treatment In Crim Jus Sys	S	1	S-Jud
Justice System	SB	64	Retain Criminal Justice Programs Funding	S	1	S-Jud
Justice System	SB	100	Unauthorized Disclosure Of Intimate Images Act	S	2	S-SVM
Justice System	HB	1025	Limits On Job Applicant Criminal History Inquiries	S	1	H-Jud
Justice System	HB	1051	CDPS Human Trafficking-related Training	S	2	H-App
Water	HB	1050	Encourage Use Of Xeriscape In Common Areas	S	2	H-3rd Rdg
Water	HB	1071	CDPHE Water Quality Control	S	2	H-E&E
Water	HB	1113	Protect Water Quality Adverse Mining Impacts	S	2	H-RAA

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