



## 2026 Under the Dome - Week 1

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Colorado's General Assembly convened this week, with leadership in the House and Senate presenting opening day remarks on Wednesday and Governor Polis delivering his 8<sup>th</sup> and final State of State address on Thursday. Policymaker priorities from affordable housing and healthcare to public safety and artificial intelligence will have to be worked out in a tightly constrained fiscal environment in 2026.

On Friday, the House and Senate again gathered in joint session, speaking to a resolution recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. and hearing the State of the Tribes address from leadership of Colorado's tribal communities.

Both the House and Senate swore in new members this week, and committee assignments were revised for the 2026 session. A full list of the committees and their members can be accessed here: <https://leg.colorado.gov/committees>. Committees are meeting to hear SMART Act presentations from each state agency and holding joint House and Senate hearings with the Joint Budget Committee to review budget details in each committee's issue areas of interest.

In addition to a handful of resolutions, 94 bills were read across the desk in the House and Senate and posted publicly as of 5:30p on Friday. Included in the Senate Democrat priorities introduced on the first day are [SB 003](#) End of Life Management of Electric Vehicle Batteries and [SB 008](#) Mental Health Access, which would impose a surcharge on internet service account holders to generate revenues for mental health services. [HB 1036](#) Local Taxes on Vacant Residential Property would allow local governments to levy an excise tax and/or property tax on residential properties that are unoccupied for a certain portion of the year to generate funds for affordable housing.

In the House, priority bills include [HB 1002](#) Provider Participation in Health Insurance aimed at increasing access to behavioral health providers, [HB 1004](#) Continuation of Child Care Contribution Tax Credit and [HB 1005](#) Worker Protection Collective Bargaining. Governor Polis vetoed the same legislation in

2025 after negotiations to revise Colorado's Labor Peace Act collapsed and has pledged to do so again if changes aren't made. The House also introduced [HB 1012](#) Consumer Protections to Promote Fair Market Pricing.

Energy issues are at the heart of a number of measures introduced in the first batch of bills, including [SB 002](#) Energy Affordability, [SB 022](#) Challenges Meeting 2030 Emission Reduction Goals, [HB 1007](#) Improve Consumer Use Distributed Energy Resources and [HB 1013](#) Ratio Utility Billing Systems. [HB 1030](#) Data Center & Utility Modernization is the first data center bill to be introduced this session, with [additional legislation expected](#) that would require data centers to use as much renewable energy as possible and prevent their energy usage from impacting the cost of utilities for the communities around them.

Also anticipated to be introduced this session is [a proposal to raise the state's TABOR cap](#) to increase funds available for K-12 education and potentially free up revenues for other state-funded services.

The legislature is off on Monday in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and will resume on Tuesday at 10am. Next week's schedule includes SMART Act hearings for Judiciary, Transportation, Natural Resources and Agriculture and a continuation of the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing hearing and supplemental budget votes for nearly every agency at the Joint Budget Committee. The Colorado Commission on Uniform State Laws is set to meet next Friday afternoon to finalize their agenda for 2026.

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