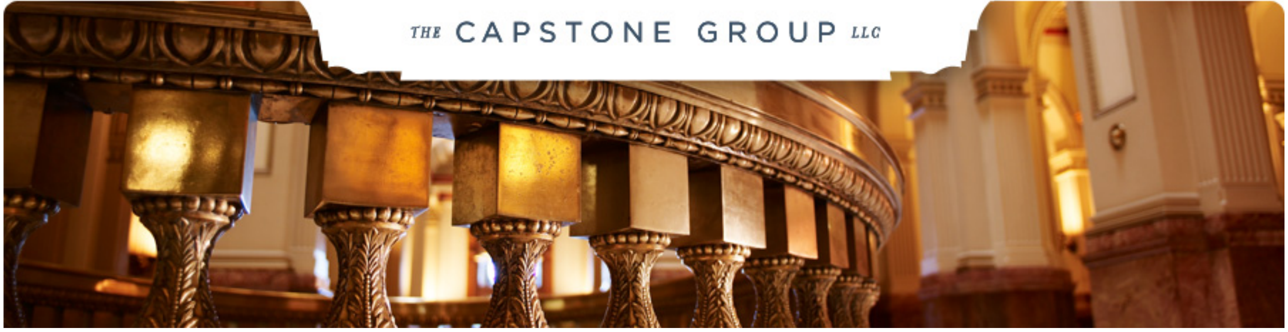

2026 Under the Dome - Week 6

The legislature convened again in regular session on Tuesday this week, following the Presidents Day holiday. Dozens more bills were introduced this week, bringing the total number to more than 400.

Included in the stack of new bills are substantial proposals that have been in the works for months.

HB 1210 Surveillance Price & Wage Setting would prohibit the use of automated decision systems use of surveillance data to set individual prices for consumers or individualized wages for workers and specifies that violation constitutes a deceptive trade practice under the Colorado Consumer Protection Act. The bill has been assigned to the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee.

HB 1230 Extend Conservation Easement Tax Credit will extend the state's conservation easement tax credit through state income tax year 2036. The tax credit is currently set to expire in 2031. This legislation will face its first hearing in the House Finance Committee.

Sponsors have introduced HB 1272 Extreme Temperatures Worker Protections, an amended version of legislation that failed in the 2025 session. This year's version would require the Department of Labor and Employment to begin collecting data regarding temperature-related injury or illness and emergencies at worksites and requires the development of a model temperature-related injury and illness prevention plan and training standards for employers of workers who are affected by extreme temperatures. HB 1272 is assigned to the House Health & Human Services Committee.

Democrats announced Tuesday a package of bills aimed at decoupling Colorado law from hundreds of millions of dollars in new federal tax breaks, end tax exemptions on downloadable-software sales and rein in several long-standing corporate deductions. The bill will free up funds for a new per-child tax credit for families earning up to $95,000 a year, since the state's Family Affordability Tax Credit and expanded Earned Income Tax Credit were impacted by passage of H.R. 1 by Congress last summer. The bills introduced include HB 1221Tax Expenditure Adjustments, HB 1222 Modify Tax Expenditures, and HB 1223 Modifying Certain Tax Expenditures. Each of the bills is assigned to the House Finance Committee.

Changes to local government taxing authority are proposed in SB 116 Property Tax Modifications, which would authorize municipalities to levy a lodging tax, clarify the valuation for assessment of lodging property, extend the senior primary residence benefit and modify the taxation of business personal property. This bill will be heard first in the Senate Finance Committee.

Democrats have also introduced SB 108 Transparency of Legislative Groups' Money, which would require any caucus, committee, club, organization, or group that consists of one or more legislative members and accepts, receives, or expends money to report donations and expenditures to the non-partisan Legislative Council. Reports would be posted on a publicly accessible page on the general assembly's website. The proposal includes sponsors from the Opportunity Caucus, a group that faced criticism for not initially disclosing sponsors of a fall event.

The House Finance Committee this week approved HB 1046 Regulate Earned-Wage Access Services, forwarding it to Appropriations.

The Senate took up consideration of budget supplemental bills, passing them on 3rd reading on Friday morning. Bills with amendments will return to the House for concurrence and then be sent to the Governor's desk for action. The Joint Budget Committee voted to set next year's budget for the departments of Revenue, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and K-12 school finance.

JBC staff on Friday presented the committee a "stress test" memo. The stress test is a tool developed by JBC and Legislative Council Staff to allow visualization of the budget over a five-year period and under multiple economic scenarios. The stress test modeling shows the State spending down the reserve each year, with the reserve completely depleted by the end of FY 2029-30 even without a recession. Under a moderate recession scenario, the General Fund reserve is essentially gone by the end of FY 26-27. The presentation noted that the Governor's request for FY 26-27 focuses on reducing Medicaid appropriations; staff's analysis indicates that closing the gap going forward "will almost certainly" also require significant reductions to the other "big six" departments that receive General Fund appropriations.

Next week's schedules are full, with committees hitting full stride on legislative hearings and floor work happening as well. The Joint Budget will continue figure setting decisions for the FY 26-27 budget, with votes planned on the remainder of the Colorado Department of Education budget, Human Services, Personnel and capital construction.

On Monday, the Senate Majority Caucus will meet to elect a new Senate President Pro Tem before convening on the floor for their daily work. The Pro Tem leadership position became available due to the resignation of Senator Dafna Michaelson Jenet earlier in the month. The Senate District 21 vacancy committee will meet next Thursday, February 26 to appoint her replacement.

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