



2026 Under the Dome - Week 5

Bill introductions continued this week, with the total number of bills introduced at 323 by Friday. The legislature has also introduced 30 resolutions and memorials, and on Friday morning [memorialized Senator Faith Winter](#), who died in a car crash this fall.

Senator Dafna Michaelson Jenet [announced her resignation](#) this week, leaving the General Assembly to join the David Meraage Foundation for Confronting Antisemitism, a local nonprofit. A vacancy committee in Senate District 21 will appoint a replacement for the remainder of the year, and voters will select someone at the November 2026 election to serve out the remaining two years of her term. Her Senate colleagues will elect a new president pro tempore, a position Michaelson Jenet won at the start of the 2025 session, and her positions on the Education, Health & Human Services, and Legislative Audit Committees will need to be filled. Former State Representative Adrienne Benavidez has been endorsed by several state representatives who also live in the district and seems the likely replacement.

Of note, a data center bill backed by the environmental community was introduced, [SB 102](#) Large Load Data Centers. The legislation establishes energy and infrastructure requirements for data centers with a peak load of more than 30 megawatts and details determinations to be made and enforced by the Public Utilities Commission. A pro-data center bill, [HB 1030](#) Data Center and Utility Modernization, was introduced the first day of session. The House bill offers a 100% sales tax relief to companies building data centers and is backed by the data center coalition. These two competing bills are expected to come to a head at some point in session.

Republican Senator Byron Pelton indicated that he was “pleasantly surprised” that the Senate Transportation Committee approved [Senate Resolution 26-001](#) by a bipartisan vote of 6-3 this week, forwarding the resolution calling for increased funding for transportation projects in Morgan County to the full floor for consideration. Pelton has long worked to [draw attention to dismal rural road conditions](#), and indicates that there is significant support in his district for a [proposed ballot measure](#) that would require the state to spend all revenue collected from transportation costs like vehicle registrations and retail delivery fees to go toward road and bridge maintenance projects. The measure is currently in the signature-collecting phase, with the petition due in May.

The Senate Finance Committee amended and then advanced with unanimous support [SB 011](#) Search Warrants Provided to Covered Platforms. The bill, which was a small piece of last

year's [SB25-086](#) Protections for Users of Social Media, requires social media companies to respond to law enforcement search warrants within 72 hours. The bill was added to the full Senate's consent calendar and is expected to quickly pass the Senate and go to the House.

The House Finance Committee postponed indefinitely a proposal to allow local governments to tax vacant residential property. Under [HB 1036](#) Local Taxes on Vacant Residential Property, local governments would have defined what qualified as "vacant" and proposed a tax rate to be voted on by local homeowners. The bill failed by a vote of 4-7, with three Democrats joining the committee's four Republicans in opposition.

The House Health & Human Services Committee supported by a bi-partisan vote of 10-2 [HB 1002](#) Provider Participation in Health Insurance. A priority bill introduced by House Democrats on the first day of session, the measure aims to [expand and ease access to mental health providers](#).

The House of Representatives debated and ultimately approved a slate of bills to bring the current year's budget into balance. The supplemental bills make mid-year adjustments for enrollment, costs and other factors and capture the \$250+ million in reductions directed by Governor Polis's [August 2025 Executive Order](#). Since House JBC members were busy shepherding the bills through caucus, second and third reading, the Joint Budget Committee met for limited hours this week and voted to set the budget for FY 26-27 for the Department of Labor and Employment, Human Services, and air quality divisions of the Department of Public Health & Environment. Next week supplemental bills will be taken up in the Senate, and the JBC is scheduled for figure setting for the departments of Revenue, Natural Resources, and K-12 Education.

The legislature will resume in session on Tuesday and will not meet on Monday in recognition of the Presidents Day holiday.

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