



2026 Under the Dome - Week 10

Now past the halfway mark, the legislature is in full swing. On Monday, Senate Majority Leader Rodriguez [announced updated committee assignments](#) necessitated by the resignation of former Senator Dafna Michaelson Jenet and the appointment of Senator Adrienne Benavidez to complete her term. The Senate Health & Human Services Committee was reduced from a 9-member committee to a 7-member committee with 5 Democrats and 2 Republicans. Other committees remain the same size. Benavidez will serve on the Finance Committee, and Senator Snyder will serve on the Education Committee until the budget is finalized, at which time JBC member Senator Bridges will take over that seat.

Following months of meetings, the Artificial Intelligence policy work group appointed by Governor Polis following the collapse of negotiations during the August 2025 special legislative session [voted unanimously](#) to forward a [framework](#) that addresses the use of AI and Automated Decision Making Systems (ADMT) in consequential decisions about consumers. A bill encapsulating these consensus recommendations is expected to be introduced in the next few weeks based off the negotiated framework from the working group. If approved, this will replace the AI legislation signed in to law in 2024. The aim is that the 2026 bill will be sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Robert Rodriguez, prime author of the 2024 measure. While the vote from the work group was unanimous, technical and substantive issues are likely to remain in contention in the weeks ahead.

The quarterly revenue forecast was delivered on Thursday, and on Friday the Joint Budget Committee [reviewed the differences](#) and voted to balance to the OSPB figures. [Democrats](#) and [Republicans](#) put stakes in the ground following the news, and will spend the next week making final decisions to reach a balanced budget, which is about \$500 million short in the current year and \$1 billion over for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2026.

The budget is currently scheduled to be introduced on Monday, March 30 but could be delayed given the scale and scope of the decisions left to be made, including potential privatization of the state's workers comp provider of last resort, provider rates, state employee compensation, and a new request from the Governor's office this week to [fund](#)

[a new prison](#) to address an increasing inmate population. (Scroll to the end of this update for links to full forecast documents).

The first hearing on data centers was held this week when the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee took up [SB 102](#) Large-Load Data Centers. Dozens of witnesses testified for and against. As planned, the committee took public testimony but did not vote. The bill will be scheduled for action at a future date, as [negotiations are ongoing in relation to a competing bill](#), [HB 1030](#) Data Center & Utility Modernization which is scheduled for hearing in House Energy & Environment next week.

The Senate Education Committee gave initial approval to SB 068 Modify Administration of Education Assessments, in a [continuation of debate](#) about how many and how often assessments should be administered in public schools. The bill was amended to create a task force to study the issue and passed on a party-line vote. [SB 062](#) Rodenticide Use Restrictions has been substantially rewritten and subsequently passed the Senate.

The House spent long hours on the floor Thursday and Friday debating gun control legislation, ultimately advancing [HB 1126](#) Requirements for Firearms Dealers, [SB 004](#) Expand List of Petitioners for Protection Order and [SB 043](#) Record Keeping & Reg of Sale of Firearm Barrel. The Senate bills now head to the Governor's desk for action.

In the Senate, [SB 011](#) Search Warrants Provided to Covered Platforms received final approval and will also be sent to the Governor's desk. [HB 1255](#) Social Media Report & Search Warrants drew significant public testimony from the Evergreen High School Community following a recent school shooting, and the House Judiciary Committee advanced the bill on a party-line vote. The bill will need to be amended to align with SB 011 as they contain similar but not identical provisions. Also related, [HB 1148](#) Protections for Youth on Social Media was also heard in the House Judiciary Committee and was laid over for action on a future date.

The House Finance Committee gave initial approval to [HB 1274](#) State Agency Payments to Grant Recipients this week, a bill that would allow state agencies to distribute up to 25% of awarded grant funds up-front to qualified non-profit organizations. The House Appropriations Committee approved 15 bills on Friday, including a handful that result in more dollars for the state's general fund.

Two regulatory reform bills have been introduced in the Senate - [SB 137](#) Measures to Reduce Administrative Burdens and [SB 138](#) Reducing Administrative Burdens on Health Care, with the aim of [reducing regulations and increasing oversight](#) of state agencies. The

fiscal impact assigned to these bills by state agencies will be a consideration of members as they debate these proposals.

The Colorado Chamber called out a handful of bills this week, including three that passed their first committee last week ([HB 1221](#), [HB 1222](#) and [HB 1223](#)) and will establish a new Family Tax Credit. The [Chamber indicates](#) the combined proposals represent more than \$600 million per year (58% increase) in new taxes on Colorado businesses. Other substantial tax policy changes are also under consideration, as [HB 1233](#) Property Tax Modifications passed out of House Finance this week and [SB 116](#) Property Tax Modifications and [HB 1289](#) Modification of Certain Tax Expenditures each face their first public hearings next week. Lots of moving pieces as the members dive in to the second half of the legislative session!

More information and the full state economic forecast documents can be found below:

[Colorado Legislative Council Staff Economic and Revenue Forecast](#)
[Colorado Legislative Council Staff Economic and Revenue Forecast Presentation to JBC](#)

[Office of State Planning and Budgeting Economic and Revenue Forecast](#)
[Office of State Planning and Budgeting Economic and Revenue Forecast Presentation to JBC](#)

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