



2026 Under the Dome - Week 7

The Senate met early on Monday morning to elect a new President Pro Tem, to fill the leadership role vacated due to the resignation of Senator Dafna Michaelson Jenet. [Cathy Kipp \(D-Larimer County\)](#) will serve in this position going forward. On Thursday evening, a local vacancy committee met and [appointed Andrienne Benevidez](#) to serve in Senate District 21. She'll serve through the remainder of 2026, with voters in November 2026 electing who will serve out the remaining two years of the term. Benevidez previously served in the House of Representatives, stepping down in 2022 after an unsuccessful bid for election by her peers to serve as Speaker of the House.

As it now stands more than 25% of state lawmakers – 27 of 100 – were at some point appointed to the House or Senate by a vacancy committee.

On Friday, Governor Polis announced that he has appointed Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera as Interim Commissioner of the state's Behavioral Health Administration, following former Commissioner Dannette Smith's retirement. Primavera also heads up the Office of Saving People Money on Health Care and previously served in the state House of Representatives.

Artificial Intelligence is dominating conversations both in and outside of the Capitol. The [AI working group](#) met this week but did not take action on recommended legislation as initially expected. In the meantime, the House Health and Human Services Committee is scheduled to hear two bills related to AI at their Wednesday hearing: [HB 1139](#) Use of Artificial Intelligence in Health Care and [HB 1195](#) Psychotherapy Artificial Intelligence Restrictions.

Also generating a lot of attention are a [bill to ban prop bets](#), [SB 131](#) Sports Betting Protections, and [SB 116](#) Property Tax Modifications, among other tax measures.

The Senate Transportation & Energy Committee took up one of the session's first bills - [SB 003](#) End-of-Life Management of Electric Vehicle Batteries. Bill sponsors presented a strike-below amendment and promised additional work with stakeholders on outstanding

issues. The committee referred the bill to the Appropriations Committee with bipartisan support.

In the House, the Energy & Environment Committee heard a presentation of the [Sunset Review Report for the Public Utilities Commission](#), which promises to be a heavily debated issue this session. The Department of Regulatory Agencies and an independent consultant retained by the agency reviewed the 26 recommendations related to transportation network companies, rail, water, telecommunications, pipeline safety and energy included in the report. Following the presentation and public testimony, the committee agreed to approve the draft bill by a vote of 9-3, with Majority Leader Duran and Rep. Willford sponsoring the bill. It is expected Senate Majority Leader Rodriguez and Senator Cutter will sign on as the Senate sponsors.

The same committee heavily amended [HB 1007](#) Improve Customer Use Distributed Energy Resources in committee to respond to feedback from stakeholders, and then passed the bill to the Committee of the Whole. Also headed to the full House for debate is [HB 1005](#) Worker Protection Collective Bargaining, which passed the House Appropriations Committee Friday morning on a party-line vote. The bill, a re-do of a measure that was vetoed by Governor Polis last year, is expected to pass the House and Senate and once again be vetoed by the governor.

[HB 1054](#) Protections for Worker Safety was approved by a narrow 7-6 margin following a lengthy hearing on Thursday night. The bill, which was referred to the Appropriations Committee, would set up a state-level OSHA-like program. The House State Affairs Committee passed [HB 1130](#) Public Restroom Baby Diaper Changing Station by a vote of 7-4 after amending the bill to remove the requirement on state buildings and [HB 1110](#) Vulnerable Adult Financial Exploitation Banking passed the Finance Committee – both bills will next be heard on 2nd reading in the House.

The Joint Budget Committee is deep in their work to set the budget for FY 26-27 and voted this week on the Departments of Personnel, Education, and behavioral health line items in the Behavioral Health Administration and Human Services. The committee delayed action on the capital construction requests and requested a meeting with the Capital Development Committee to discuss before making their funding decision on those items.

Committee schedules are full again next week, and lengthy hearings are expected to keep committees late into the evening on some of the more controversial measures. Senate Health & Human Services will take up [SB 041](#) Consumer Protections Medical Care Entities. In the House, gun bills will be debated Monday night in the State Affairs

Committee, the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee will hear [HB 1211](#) Regulation of Broadband Services on Tuesday and [HB 1012](#) Consumer Protections to Promote Fair Market Pricing will also be up on Tuesday, in the Judiciary Committee.

The Joint Budget Committee will continue figure setting, with votes scheduled next week for several state offices and agencies including the Office of the Governor, Colorado Energy Office and Office of Information Technology as well as the Departments of Military and Veterans Affairs, Public Health & Environment and Health Care Policy & Financing.

The legislature is more than one-third of the way through their session, with 75 days remaining to May 13 adjournment.

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