



2026 Under the Dome - Week 13

As of Friday, 581 bills have been introduced since the General Assembly convened in January. Monday marks the 90th legislative day in the 120-day session, and the schedule and pace are intensifying at the same time that many legislators are also looking ahead to the June primary election and November general election. Colorado Republicans convene in Pueblo on Saturday for their state assembly. Democrats held their state assembly on March 28.

The state's constitution requires the annual budget to be balanced, so the Joint Budget Committee faced a big task in [addressing a \\$1.5 billion shortfall](#). The budget and orbital bills that represent their decisions seriously bogged down the House of Representatives this week, even more so than in prior years.

The House Appropriations Committee met on Monday and Tuesday to review [HB 1410](#) FY 26-27 Long Appropriations Bill and the 64 orbital bills, sending them all through for debate by the full House on second reading on Wednesday. After nearly 12 hours of debate on the primary budget bill and the 73 amendments proposed by Democrat and Republican members, [Rep. Brandi Bradley \(R-Douglas County\) made a motion to have the 661-page bill read into the record in its entirety](#) (“reading at length”) to protest how her ethics complaint against fellow Republican Rep. Ron Weinberg was handled earlier in session. House leadership subsequently laid the bill over as amended, taking up orbital bills instead for the rest of Wednesday evening and all day Thursday. After 6:30p on Thursday, the machine in the House began reading the budget, and that continued all day on Friday and into the evening. As of 7:15p, the machine is still reading the budget. The House is now expected to work on both Saturday and Sunday to get through the remaining budget amendments, finish second reading and pass the long bill and orbitals on third reading.

The topics that drove the most debate in the budget included funding for more prison beds, proposed caps and changes to benefits for the [Cover All Coloradans](#) healthcare program for children and pregnant people who would qualify for Medicaid if not for their immigration status, the sweep of \$130 million from the [State Affordable Housing Fund](#)

established by passage of Proposition 123, a transfer from the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund to the state's General Fund, and a change in the reserve from 15% to 13%.

As is customary, amendments added in the House of Representatives will be stripped when the budget and orbital bills are heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee next week. Senate Appropriations is expected to hear testimony on all of the bills on Tuesday morning and then take up the budget and orbitals on the floor for second reading on Wednesday. Following passage of the bills through both chambers, the Joint Budget Committee will reconvene as a conference committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions and then return a final version to the chambers for concurrence before sending it to the Governor's desk for action. Governor Polis does have line-item veto authority for the budget, and his office is actively engaged in negotiations with lawmakers throughout the process in an attempt to jointly reach agreement on budget provisions.

In comparison, the Senate was relatively quiet this week, with limited floor work each morning and a handful of bills in committees. On Wednesday, the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee approved [SB 150](#) Modernizing Regional Transportation District by a vote of 8-1, sending the bill to the full Senate. Also this week, RTD chief executive and general manager Debra Johnson announced that she plans to [leave her role next year](#), declining an offer from the Board to extend her contract beyond May 2027.

The Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee met on Thursday to hear [HB 1113](#) Modifications to Elections, and adopted six amendments. The bill subsequently passed on a party-line 3-2 vote. The same committee voted unanimously to postpone indefinitely (kill) [SB 127](#) Family Medical Leave Act Duration Extensions at the sponsor's request. The bill would have extended the duration of paid FAMLI leave by two weeks following the death of a family member for whom a covered individual cared while on FAMLI leave.

The Senate Appropriations Committee met on Friday morning to approve eight bills, first acting on three House bills to implement the legislature's budget for the coming year and reduce the number of interim committees that would otherwise meet, and five Senate bills including [SB 137](#) Measures to Reduce Administrative Burdens and [SB 080](#) Cradle-to-Career Grant Program Creation (the bill will be funded by outside sources, not state general fund).

In addition to the budget and remaining orbital bills, a handful of other bills were also introduced this week including [SB 155](#) Increase Access Homeowner's Insurance Enterprise. After a failed attempt last session, the Speaker of the House and other

Democrats are sponsoring legislation with the [aim of lowering homeowners insurance rates](#). The bill would assess a fee on companies that sell homeowner's insurance policies to generate revenue for an enterprise fund. A state board would then distribute grants from the enterprise to help people purchase hail-resistant roofs, which are more expensive than traditional shingles. The bill is scheduled for the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday.

The Senate also introduced [SB 156](#) Change Practices of Work Force Development Council, which would streamline requirements for the council's talent pipeline report, allow the council greater flexibility in developing criteria for the creation of career pathways, and update the duties of the council and the postsecondary and workforce readiness statewide coordinator.

Next week the House will return to regular committees of reference, taking up a number of bills including [HB 1119](#) Authority for Different Mill Levy Rates in the House Finance Committee Thursday upon adjournment of floor work.

The Senate will be primarily occupied with the budget and orbital bills, however committees of reference are scheduled to meet on Monday and Tuesday and have a full slate of bills including [SB 116](#) Property Tax Modifications in Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday afternoon.

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