



2026 Under the Dome - Week 14

The legislature worked in committees and on the floor this week, with the Senate focused primarily on the budget while the House moved on to other matters. Nearly 600 bills have been introduced, and the Governor has signed 74 bills into law so far including earlier today [SB 118](#) Legacy Giving to Charitable Organizations.

The budget debate in the Senate played out more like a typical year, unlike last week in the House when procedural moves stretched the debate over several days and nights and required a full day session on Saturday. Ultimately all the budget orbital bills and [HB 1410](#) FY 26-27 Long Appropriations Bill were all approved. The Joint Budget Committee will meet next week in conference committee to reach final agreement, and then the bills will return to the chambers for one final vote before being sent to the Governor's desk. The Governor does have line-item veto authority for the budget, though not for other pieces of legislation. Refer to the end of this document for a complete list of each budget amendment that was approved.

In response to a report released by the Colorado Chamber Foundation early in the month, business, technology and civic leaders (interestingly including Governor Polis himself) signed on to an [open letter to policymakers](#) raising concerns about a “deteriorating” business climate. The Governor has indicated his intention to convene business leaders in response.

In committee this week, Senate Finance significantly amended [SB 116](#) Property Tax Modification in response to opposition, and the bill subsequently passed. It will next be heard in the Appropriations Committee.

The House Health & Human Services Committee heard [HB 1347](#) Federal Disability Benefits for Foster Youth to require county human services departments to apply for federal Supplemental Security Income benefits for eligible children and youth in foster care. The committee voted unanimously in support of advancing the bill to the Appropriations Committee. The House Finance Committee heard [HB 1119](#) Authority for Different Mill Levy Rates on Thursday and following significant testimony in opposition the bill failed by a vote of 3-8 and was postponed indefinitely.

The House Appropriations Committee met on Friday morning and approved a number of bills including [HB1317](#) Unified Postsecondary Talent Development System, [HB 1078](#) Off-Campus Courses & Concurrent Enrollment Programs, [HB 1075](#) Child Welfare Prevention Services

Funding, and [HB 1307](#) Sunset Colorado Medical Board. The bills were brought up on special orders on the House floor later in the day and passed second reading. Third reading is expected on Monday.

The Senate Appropriations Committee also met on Friday morning, advancing each of the bills on their calendar including [SB 135](#) State Public K-12 Education Funding, which would refer a measure to the November 2026 ballot to increase funding for K-12 education and potentially other state programs. The bill was amended at the sponsor's request and passed on a party-line vote. It will next be heard on the Senate floor.

The House approved [SB 121](#) Overtime Threshold for Agricultural Workers on the second reading Thursday by a 1 vote margin (33-32) following significant debate. The bill, supported by farm and ranch leaders, will require agricultural workers to work 56 hours in a week before receiving time-and-a-half overtime pay. The Senate ratified the amended version on Friday by a vote of 20-15, sending it to the Governor for final action.

Bills continued to be introduced this week, including [SB 168](#) Transparency of Legislative Caucuses' Money and [SB 170](#) Task Force to Expand Effective Public Schools.

Long Bill/Budget Amendments Approved in Both Chambers

- Adds a new line item for Special Needs Parole with \$1 General Fund and related footnote in the Department of Corrections. Adds a new line item for Contracts with Private Nursing Homes with \$1 General Fund and related footnote in the Department of Human Services. (Senate Amendment 1/J.131/House Amendment 9/J.071)
- Reduces the Mansion Activity Fund line item in the Office of the Governor by \$74,654 cash funds from the Governor's Mansion Maintenance Fund and increases the Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund Expenditures line item in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs by an equal amount of cash funds from the Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund. (Senate Amendment 2/J.133, House Amendment 23/J.053)
- Increases appropriations to the Offender Treatment and Services line item in the Judicial Department. Amends footnote number 56 to state the General Assembly's intent to dedicate the \$300,000 General Fund increase to offenders participating in Veterans' Treatment Courts. (Senate Amendment 4/J.145, House Amendment 32/J.051, NOTE: Senate amendment does not reduce Appropriations in the Gov's Office; House Amendment reduces the appropriations in the Office of the Governor by \$200,000 General Fund for the Office of Film, Television, and Media, and \$100,000 General Fund for Tourism Promotion).
- Reallocates in Health Care Policy and Financing \$245,021 General Fund from General Professional Services to Medical Services Premiums. With the matching federal funds, the amendment provides \$680,000 total funds in Medical Services Premiums, which is the estimated

increase in Denver Health eligibility determination costs to implement H.R. 1. The federal legislation requires expansion adults to meet community engagement (work) requirements and renew eligibility every six months. (Senate Amendment 5/J.123, House Amendment 38/J030)

- Reduces \$264,268 General Fund in the Department of Natural Resources for wolf reintroduction and management. Updates a footnote to express legislative intent that the remaining General Fund should be used for only wolf management, and not the introduction of new wolves, and that gifts, grants, and donations should be used to fund the introduction of new wolves. (Senate Amendment 7/J.150, House Amendment 54a/J082)

- Adds \$239,506 cash funds from the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund and 3.0 FTE in the Department of the Treasury. (Senate Amendment 9/J.135, House Amendment 69/J059)

Amendments Approved in the House Only

- None

Amendments Approved in the Senate Only

- Adds \$2.1M GF and \$2.1M Federal Funds to HCPF with a footnote explaining the purpose to increase obstetrical care rates. Reduces \$2.1M GF for Wildlife Operations in DNR and strikes a footnote related to wolf reintroduction (Amendment 6/J.090)

- Reduces the Administration of the GOV's Office and Residence line item by \$400K GF and increases TGYS in CDHS by the same amount (Amendment 21/J.134)

- Reduces the GF appropriation for General Economic Incentives and Marketing in the Office of the GOV by \$500K. Adds a \$500K GF appropriation for DNA testing and reimbursement to the CBI in DPS (Amendment 27/J.118)

- Increases by \$7.1M TF, including \$3.5M GF, the appropriations to HCPF to prevent implementation of a soft cap on paid caregiver hours and of reduced enrollments from the Adult Comprehensive Waiver waitlist. Decreases 3.5 related FTE (Amendment 29/J.094)

- Reduces housing assistance for individuals with substance use disorder in CDHS by \$4M. Adds \$4M to HCPF, including \$2M GF to partially offset the implementation of post-eligibility treatment of income for the DD waiver. Adds \$2M to DOLA for low income rent subsidies (Amendment 32/J.091)

- Adds a footnote to the Restorative Justice Programs line item in JUD to specify the GA intent that the State Restorative Justice Council guide the allocation of grants to judicial districts from the Restorative Justice Surcharge Fund (Amendment 37/J.120)