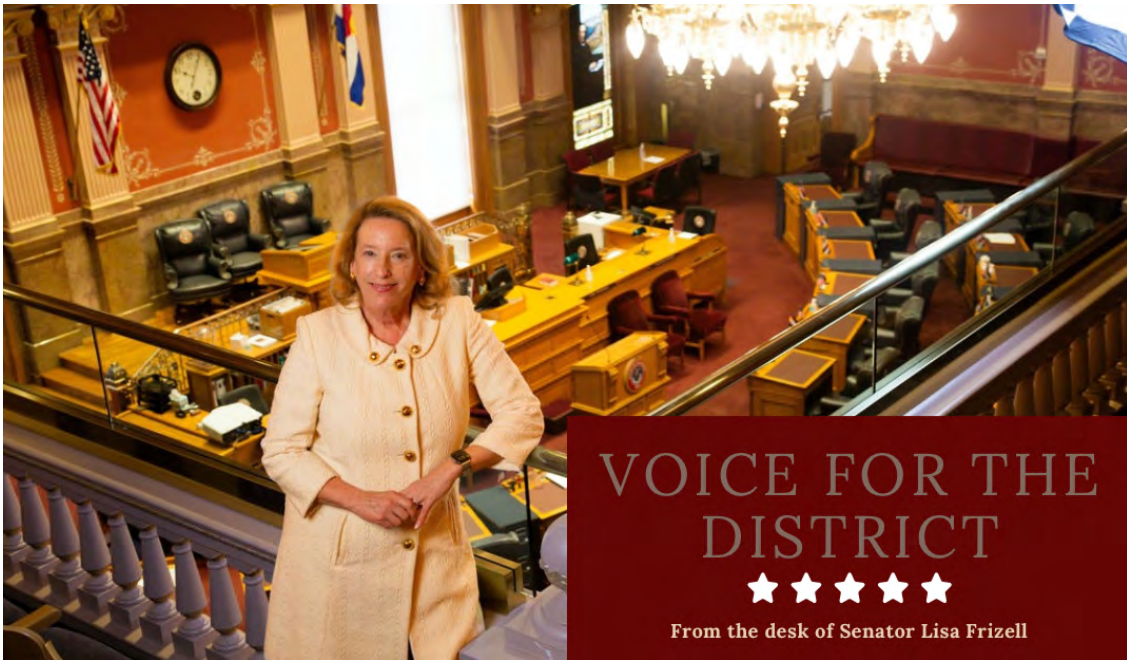




LISA
FRIZELL
SENATE DISTRICT 2



2026 Legislative Session

Week Thirteen - Awaiting the Long Bill

Greetings Kevin,

Welcome back! I hope you are all having a great week, and thank you for trusting me as your State Senator. As of April 6th, there have been 563 total bills introduced between the House and the Senate – which is 46 more than this time in last year's session. There are 366 bills still needing action, and with the budget being introduced in the Senate next week, we are sure to be busy! Please read on for this week's update.



My Bill Updates

[SB26-1234](#) 'Access to Records of Child Abuse or Neglect' passed unanimously through the Senate on Monday, and will be sent to the Governor. This bill protects records from being released to individuals not permitted to obtain the information, while clarifying that those named in the records have a right to make use of them.

[SB26-144](#) 'Modify Property Tax Lien Sales Treasurer Deeds & Fees' passed through the Senate on the Consent Calendar and is now headed to the House. This is one of the longest bills I've ever run at 106 pages, and will assist property owners, investors, and county treasurers navigate the complex tax lien process. I carried this policy on behalf of the Colorado Treasurer's Association, and worked with them hand in hand -- along with a number of other stakeholders, to ensure we created legislation that works well for all.

[SB26-140](#) 'Exempt Drugs from Prescription Drug Affordability Board Reviews' was heard in the Senate this week and will be heard for Third Reading on Monday. I carried this bill on behalf of the Colorado Rare Disease Coalition -- over 70 patient and advocacy groups. It will help guarantee continuity of care and preserve access to life-saving treatments by exempting rare disease drugs from review by the State's Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

The Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) was created legislatively in 2021, along with the Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Council. There was an effort to exclude rare disease drugs from PDAB review when the initial legislation was passed because the impact of upper payment limits on access to the medication was uncertain. The following year, the Advisory Council formally recommended to PDAB that

they exclude these drugs from review for the same reason, however the PDAB did not concur. In fact, the first drug that they placed an upper payment limit on was Enbrel – a rare disease medication that treats a variety of autoimmune diseases. This prompted the manufacturer to file suit against Colorado on that decision. In five years, the PDAB has reviewed exactly five drugs, including Trikafta –another rare disease medication that treats cystic fibrosis. No other upper payment limits have been imposed. The glaring lack of productivity of the PDAB aside, the drugs on the list to be reviewed include a large percentage of rare disease medicines, and this bill will exempt them from this process.

[HB26-1244](#) ‘Department of Public Health and Environment Nursing Home Penalty Fund’ passed in the Senate Chamber on Thursday and will head to the Governors desk next. When a skilled nursing facility violates federal standards, and a fine is imposed, a portion of that fine is deposited into the Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund (NHPCF). In this specific case, the cash fund can only distribute according to federal guidelines for the fund, and each state in the US has such a fund. HB26-1244 aligns Colorado’s Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund with updated federally allowed spending categories. Because of the previous federal restrictions on the use of the fund, Colorado’s NHPCF has a balance of almost \$21million. With this update, the funds can now be used for training in skilled nursing facilities and tuition reimbursement for nursing students.

Weekly Layovers

We saw a large number of Second Reading bills laid over again this week. On Monday, 5 out of 8 scheduled bills were laid over, and on Tuesday, 4 out of 9 bills were not heard. Wednesday the entire Second Reading Calendar 3 out of 3 bills were postponed, and on Thursday 2 out of 4. Finally, on Friday 9 out of 16 bills planned for Second Reading were laid over. Again, many of these bills don’t have the votes to pass, yet the bill sponsors won’t PI (postpone indefinitely) them. I’m all for slowing down the calendar, and welcome the opportunity to debate bills like SB26-134 (the bill about payment card network fees) at length.

Budget Update

The JBC has finalized the budget, and it was introduced in the House this

week. Next week, the Long Bill ([HB26-1410](#)) will be introduced in the Senate on Monday, April 13th with anticipation of Third Reading on Thursday, April 16th. Working with our amazing caucus staff I've been busy drafting amendments for next week, and you can stay up to date through our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [X](#) pages.

This year's budget reflects a concerning pattern - Democrats are closing a large structural deficit primarily through one-time transfers, placing loose caps on growing programs, and small targeted cuts rather than needed systemic reform. By relying heavily on internal transfers and technical adjustments, such as the TABOR over-refund correction and a reduction in the reserve, the JBC is putting a band-aid on the budget crisis.

The Long Bill will be introduced alongside many orbital bills. Most are simple cleanups, but some introduce significant changes such as:

- Reducing the statutory reserve from 15% to 13%
- Omnibus transfer bill - sweeping \$186.7M from various cash funds to the General Fund
- Caps on Cover All Coloradans designed to prevent future growth
- Cost of living freeze for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, and re-establishing the 5-year time clock for benefits. This is especially important because the federal limit is five years, and in 2022 the legislature passed a bill allowing extensions to the time clock, making TANF an entitlement

Please read my recent [Denver Post](#) op-ed with Senator Byron Pelton discussing the protection of Title IX and the current reality of women's sports. I will continue to advocate for female student athletes in Colorado, and protect their equal right to participate safely in sports.



Colorado & Taiwan Sister-State Relations

It was an honor to introduce [SJR26-019](#) 'Colorado & Taiwan Sister-State Relations' on Monday. This important resolution reaffirms support for Taiwan's international participation in our state, and recognizes 43 years of strong economic partnership between Colorado and Taiwan. The Senate welcomed Debby Huang, Director General of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Denver, and Elsa Lin, Consular Officer of TECO. Thank you for joining us this week!

Bad Bills:

[HB26-1102](#) 'Funding for Colorado DRIVES Account' creates a stop-gap funding mechanism for the Colorado Department of Revenue's motor vehicle software platform, which is called DRIVES. Over the last five years the cash fund for DRIVES has been significantly depleted -most often by legislation that adds to programing costs. This bill moves funding from

fees collected for the Highway User Tax Fund (HUTF) in DMV transactions to the DRIVES account. It is important to note that HUTF dollars are used for road maintenance and repair, and are distributed by the state to both counties and municipalities for that purpose. As introduced, this policy also imposed fines for missed DMV appointments, but we actually amended that out of the bill in committee. I agree that DRIVES needs to be funded, but taking important funding away from our already crumbling infrastructure is not at all the solution! This bill passed in the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday and was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

[SB26-150](#) 'Modernizing Regional Transportation District' decreases the number of elected officials on the RTD board from 15 to 5 members -plus four positions appointed by the Governor. Shifting these roles from elected officials to appointed officials removes representation of the people in RTD board decisions. RTD was created as a political subdivision to operate outside of the state government by maintaining elected positions, as decided by voters in 1980. SB26-150 reverses this public vote and completely over-extends the state government's authority. This bill was heard in the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee on Wednesday, passed, and has been sent to the Senate Chamber.

[HB26-1126](#) 'Requirements for Firearm Dealers' creates administrative chaos for firearm dealers by expanding recordkeeping requirements, mandating security comprehensive security plans, and extends certain requirements of gun-shop owners to their employees. The on-going nature of these requirements will raise operational costs extensively and make it less attractive to be a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) in Colorado -which I suspect is exactly the point. This bill follows the trend of putting restrictions on law-abiding gun dealers, but does little to meaningfully improve public safety outcomes. HB26-1126 passed in the Senate State, Veteran, and Military Affairs Committee earlier this week and will be heard in the Chamber on Monday.

[HB26-1202](#) 'Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Homelessness' allows for the creation of multijurisdictional homelessness response authorities that may enter into contracts with state or federal agencies, incur debt, issue bonds, levy and collect sales tax –just to name a few. This policy adds an additional level of government bureaucracy that has no clear guardrails on effectiveness or accountability. This bill passed the Senate State,

Veteran, and Military Affairs Committee on Tuesday and will be heard in the Chamber on Monday.

[HB26-1265](#) 'Law Enforcement National Electronic Tracing System and Share Program' requires law enforcement agencies to report and register firearms confiscated or recovered to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives national electronic tracing system. While the intent of this bill is to improve coordination and information sharing across law enforcement agencies, this one size fits all approach may be challenging for some jurisdictions. This bill was also heard in the Senate State, Veteran, and Military Affairs Committee on Tuesday and will be heard in the Senate Chamber on Monday.

[SB26-071](#) 'Use of Surveillance Technology by Law Enforcement' limits the circumstance under which law enforcement agencies can use surveillance technology. Specifically, it limits the use of facial recognition systems, traffic cameras, automated license plate readers, and drone cameras. While perhaps well intentioned, this bill restricts law enforcement from using available technology to improve public safety, and offers little to protect the privacy of citizens. This policy will be heard in the Judiciary Committee on Monday.

Good Bills:

[HB26-1101](#) 'Criminal Offenses Related to Critical Infrastructure Metals' prohibits an owner of a junk yard/shop from purchasing a critical infrastructure material -like wiring or copper pipe, with cash unless a picture of the seller is obtained. Theft of construction materials has become a significant problem in Colorado, and this bill ensures that we decrease sales of these stolen items. HB26-1101 passed in the Senate Chamber on Tuesday and heads to the Governor's desk.

[HB26-1079](#) 'Drive Motorcycle Written Permission' requires that minors receive written permission from a legal guardian before obtaining a motorcycle driving permit. This bill ensures the safety of minors while letting parents decide what they think is appropriate for their child. This policy passed in the Senate Chamber on Tuesday and will soon be signed by the Governor.

[SB26-136](#) 'Reporting of Lost or Stolen Livestock' requires the State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners and the Division of Brand Inspection within the Department of Agriculture (CDA) to receive reports of lost or

stolen livestock. This bill also directs the board to adopt rules establishing procedures to facilitate coordination between law enforcement and livestock owners in these instances. Improving coordination and reporting practices is a commonsense step that strengthens protections for producers and supports the long-term stability of Colorado's livestock industry. SB26-136 passed in the Senate Chamber on Wednesday and will soon be heard in the House.

[HB26-1311](#) 'Retainage Surety Bond Construction Contracts' gives contractors the option to submit a surety bond to a property owner instead of a retainage. In construction projects, property owners sometimes hold back a portion of payment (called a retainage) to make sure the work gets finished properly. Current state law says they can't withhold more than 5% from contracts over \$150,000, which can be a significant burden for businesses that don't have large reserves. Instead of having up to 5% of their payment tied up until the job is finished (or up to a few years past that time), this bill allows contractors to use a bond, keeping that cash on hand to make payroll, buy materials, and keep projects moving. This bill passed in the Senate Chamber on Tuesday and heads to the House next.

[SB26-072](#) 'Increased Penalty for Vehicular Homicide and Assault' clarifies what conduct is considered negligent homicide and increases the penalty for a driver causing death in a crash due to said driver using a mobile electronic device. This policy will give victims' families more closure and justice for their loved ones while holding drivers accountable. SB26-072 passed in the Senate Chamber on Friday and will soon be heard in the House.



CHEC Day at the Capitol

The Annual Homeschool Day at the Capitol happened on Thursday – plenty of students, families, and advocates attended a rally hosted by Christian Home Educators of Colorado ([CHEC](https://www.chec.org)). I will continue to stand for homeschool freedom and school choice in our state.

Donate Life Flag Raising

[Donor Alliance](#) hosted a Donate Life Community Flag Raising event at the Capitol on Monday. President and CEO, Jennifer Prinz, spoke about the importance of National Donate Life Month and the necessity of organ, eye, and tissue donation. It was great to attend and honor the donors who have given the gift of life.



Stay Informed

As the session continues, I would like to provide you with some resources to stay informed on what is happening at the Capitol. To watch current or previous debates on the floor of the House or Senate, you can visit the Colorado Channel on YouTube. Click [here](#) to watch.

The Colorado General Assembly [website](#) is also a great resource. Some of the information on this site includes tracking bills, listening to committees, and finding contact information for legislators. Committee proceedings the session will now be recorded and available for the public to view live, or archived meetings!

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Lisa Frizell".

Lisa Frizell

Assistant Minority Leader

Senate District 2

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