



Please check out [State Bill tracking link](http://statebillinfo.com/SBI/index.cfm?fuseaction=Public.Dossier&id=20215&pk=619&style=pinstripe) for the latest on bill action:

<http://statebillinfo.com/SBI/index.cfm?fuseaction=Public.Dossier&id=20215&pk=619&style=pinstripe>

Highlights of the Week

The end of this week marks the half way point of the 2015 legislative session. In the first 60 days, 503 bills were introduced, 95 have been killed, and 2 bills have been signed by the Governor. In the next sixty days we expect debate on Colorado's construction defects law, the FY 2015-16 Colorado state budget, numerous proposals to repeal or rework K-12 academic standards and testing, and proposed wage replacement for those utilizing the Family Medical Leave Act. This week, HB 1029 which expands telehealth care in the state, passed the Senate Floor. Although it sailed through the House it ran into an obstacle on the third reading Senate vote when a few Senator's expressed concerns about how expansive the term "telehealth" really was. After industry experts were consulted, concerns were quelled and the bill passed the Senate with only 10 no votes. A bill signing ceremony has been requested. The pharmaceutical industry's compromise biosimilar legislation, SB 071, passed the House Health Insurance and Environment Committee with only one no vote, despite opposition from the AARP and a push for amendments by independent and large chain pharmacies. Legislation to prohibit collection of an interchange fee was killed in the House Finance Committee on Wednesday. Interchange fees are fees established by a payment card network for the purpose of compensating the issuer of a credit or debit card for its involvement in an electronic payment transaction. The bill, brought by convenience stores, would have had extremely negative consequences on small community banks and credit unions in Colorado.

The much anticipated [bipartisan workforce development package](#) was unveiled on Thursday. Senate President Bill Cadman and House Majority Leader Crisanta Duran stood side by side and declared, "Lets show Congress how we here in Colorado can get things done in a bipartisan fashion." Four bipartisan bills related to workforce have already been introduced and are working their way through the process. Additional bills to be introduced include:

- **Mobile Learning Labs:** Legislation to bring the community college classroom to the workplace through RV vehicles set up in a company's parking lot to deliver training programs to employees where they work. The portable labs reduce employee travel

time and scheduling hassles while delivering training that is tailored to the specific needs of individual companies. The legislation will be sponsored by Representatives Lontine, Hamner and Senators Marble, Donovan.

- **Enhanced Unemployment Insurance:** The legislation allows the long-term unemployed to obtain enhanced unemployment insurance benefits while they participate in an approved skills training program. The legislation will be sponsored by Representatives Esgar, Kraft-Tharp and Senator Merrifield.
- **Career Pathways:** The bill will direct the state workforce development council to coordinate with industry to design more career pathways (combination of education/training programs and counseling) for critical occupations in growing industries. The legislation will be sponsored by Representatives Melton and Garnett and Senators Woods and Kerr.
- **P-Tech:** The bill creates partnerships with industries for STEM and IT internships. Bill sponsors are Representatives Foote, Duran and Senators Todd, Woods.
- **WORK Act:** The WORK Act creates a grant program to help with outreach, recruiting and training efforts of organizations offering skilled workers programs. Bill sponsors are Reps. Pabon and Williams and Senator Cooke.
- **Career and Technical Education Programs and Concurrent Enrollment:** Allows high schools to provide coursework and award high school credit for students that they can then count toward apprenticeship programs leading to post-secondary certifications and tech careers. It also provides scholarships to help pay for some of the most in-demand career and tech programs. The bill will be sponsored by Representative Winter and Senators Marble and Heath.

The Joint Budget Committee continued their figure setting this week considering requests from the Colorado Department of Higher Education and the Department of Human Services. On Tuesday, the Joint Budget Committee decided that the higher education funding formula would be run with \$75 million as the input and each institution would be brought up to a minimum 10% increase. They also approved one time general fund monies to cover the cost of developing the HB 1319 model. Future costs associated with the HB 1319 formula will be assessed to the institutions. The Governor had requested \$30 million for the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiatives. Instead, the Joint Budget Committee allocated \$4 million to the Initiative on top of the \$1 million base funding. JBC staff raised concerns about History Colorado's financial situation at the hearing this week and recommended a 12.5% decrease in funding for certain administrative functions. The recommendation was adopted by the JBC, along with legislation to reorganize History Colorado's current budget reporting structure, for increased transparency. The Joint Budget Committee spent most of Monday afternoon discussing the need for more caseworkers in the Division of Child Welfare and the effectiveness of the Collaborative Management Program. The Colorado Department of Human Services had requested 130 new caseworkers to help decrease caseload growth. However, the JBC only approved 65 new caseworkers. The Collaborative Management Program was developed in 2004 as a way to provide coordinated services across multiple agencies for Colorado families. The Program was previously funded by divorce docket fees but since the divorce rate has decreased, so has funding. The JBC approved \$1.5 million General Fund for the program (less

than the Department requested), but is also running legislation to clarify how the money is appropriated and require ongoing external evaluations of the program to ensure that it achieves the outcomes as defined in statute. Next week, the Joint Budget Committee will tackle figure setting for the Department of Education, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, and the Department of Corrections.

Bills of the Week

Parental Leave for School Activities HB 1221 by Representative Buckner and Representative Fields passed the House Education Committee and the House floor on second reading this week. The legislation permanently expands the 2009 law that allows parents to take off time to attend parent-teacher conferences, other meetings with school officials, and school events. The bill allows a parent to take up to six hours of unpaid leave a month but not more than 18 hours in a school year. The business community is strongly opposed to the bill and it isn't expected to pass the Senate.

Family Medical Leave Act Insurance The much anticipated HB 1258 was introduced in the House this week. The legislation creates the Family Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program to provide wage replacement when an individual takes Family Medical Leave from work. The bill will require each employee in the state to pay a premium into the insurance fund. The bill is being sponsored by Representatives Salazar and Winter as well as Senator Ulibarri. A similar bill introduced last year was killed in its first committee because of the large fiscal note. It was assigned to the House Health Insurance and Environment Committee.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles HB 1115 by Representative Lawrence expanded the definition of first degree criminal trespass to include the intentional use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to observe, record, transmit, or capture images of another person when that person has a reasonable expectation of privacy. The definition of harassment is also expanded to include using a drone to track a person's movements with the intent to harass, annoy, or alarm that person. These definitions do not apply a peace officer or other government official acting in his or her official capacity. The bill was heard in the House Judiciary Committee this week and a strike below amendment was offered to clean up language and make sure the bill didn't only refer to drone technology. There were still concerns about unintended consequences of the bill so it was laid over for later action.

School Data Privacy On Thursday, the Senate Education Committee unanimously passed a comprehensive data privacy bill. The legislation was carefully crafted over the last few months between concerned parents, school districts, and vendors. The future of the bill was put in jeopardy with the passage in committee of an amendment that will impose additional disclosure requirements on vendors and also require the deletion of student records within three years after they were no longer needed by a vendor to fulfill its contract with a school district. This amendment isn't part of the coalition compromise and will likely face obstacles in the House despite bipartisan sponsorship. The bill will be heard next in the Senate Finance Committee.

Mary Marchun

THE CAPSTONE GROUP LLC

mmarchun@capstonegroupllc.com

1576 Sherman Street Suite 300 | Denver, CO 80203

C: 303.594.8198 P: 303.860.0555 F: 303.863.8207