



February 24, 2014

LL#4:32

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS TO BE STRENGTHENED

Offenses against children have taken a prominent place in the 2014 General Assembly, and we are glad to see proposals to strengthen the laws to allow more focused prosecution and to acknowledge that children who participate in the sex trade, or even involuntary servitude, are victims, not willing participants. **HB 1273 Human Trafficking (Reps. McCann & Wright; Sens. Newell & Schwartz) (support)** appears to dovetail with HB 1149 Advertising Children to Transfer Care Trafficking (LL#2, p. 12; LL#3, p. 28).

Often, when we think of human trafficking, we think of it happening overseas and not in the U.S., much less in Colorado. In 2000, the United States adopted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) that made human trafficking a crime in the U.S., and in 2006 Colorado put laws on the books to begin to address this crime. Human trafficking is the worst kind of human rights violation causing involuntary servitude and is nothing less than modern day slavery. It is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, second only to drug trafficking and is estimated to be a \$32,000,000,000 global industry. Human trafficking is when a person knowingly sells, recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, isolates, induces, entices, provides, receives, or obtains by any means another person for the purpose of coercing the other person to perform labor or services for involuntary servitude. Children of failed adoptions who are advertised in the manner prohibited by HB 1149 can end up in the sex trade or in involuntary servitude. This bill better aligns Colorado legislation with the TVPA by adding coercion and servitude to existing statute.

Victims of human trafficking include adults and children alike. In fact, Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST), the trafficking of children for use in commercial sex acts is a rapidly growing crime. Between 100,000 to 300,000 U.S. children, average age 13, are at risk of sexual exploitation. Colorado has law enforcement units like the Rocky Mountain Innocence Lost Task Force as well as prosecutors, human services, service providers, non-profits and community organizations dedicated to eradicating this horrendous crime and working to restore victims and bring justice to offenders.

This bill calls for the creation of a Human Trafficking Council to coordinate efforts among these various agencies and organizations and gives human trafficking victims the same protection afforded to victims of sexual assault in court by not allowing defense attorneys to go into the sexual histories of the victims. Human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude is made a "sex offense against a child" for the purposes of the statute of limitations. This means that there is no limit to the

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period of time within which criminal proceedings may be initiated against an offender. The bill also requires restitution to victims of these crimes.

Even though these children are victims, under current law they are often treated as criminals. The perpetrators (pimps) often claim that the children agreed to the activity. This bill removes that defense, essentially saying that children are not able to make such an agreement. The bill will allow their records to be expunged to give survivors greater opportunities for their futures. These children are vulnerable and have often faced the worst kinds of abuse and torture and this bill will allow them to summon the courage and ability to testify to bring justice to the offenders and perpetrators of this insidious crime.

Support for this bill is consistent with League national program positions on social policy, including meeting basic human needs, violence prevention and protection of children at risk, including measures effective in helping children reach their full potential, promoting well being, encouraging their full development, and ensuring the safety of all children.

Both this bill (HB 1273) and Rep. Conti's Advertising Children to Transfer Care Trafficking (HB 1149) address elements of these heinous practices, and we urge that the definitions of the two proposals be harmonized in whatever way may be necessary and that both pass resoundingly.

Introduced in the House on February 6, HB 1273 was assigned to Judiciary and Appropriations.

Kimberly Love 303.956.8840

## **GOVERNMENT**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **FEEES FOR PUBLIC RECORDS**

**NEW** HB 1193 Research Retrieval Fees Public Records Under CORA (Rep. Salazar; Sen. Kefalas) (support in part) is the latest effort to resolve disputes over fees for research and retrieval of documents from a Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) request. The bill proposes that each government entity (state, counties, municipalities, special districts, universities ...) post on their websites their fees for responding to CORA requests. It ties the fees to the state's minimum wage (currently \$8.00) specifying that they be no more than four (originally three) times the minimum wage. The total amount of the charge would actually be less than the charge for the time expended if that charge would grow large.

The issue of charging for production of documents under CORA pits community activists against local governments in ways that sometimes look like each side has an interest in not considering the perspectives of the other. Election and other citizen activists have, in the past, opposed any fees, with the possible exception of small copying costs. Other public interest groups, who came together behind the compromise that is HB 1193, acknowledge the need for some fees, but with extreme

limits, as directed through language in the bill that specifies:

ANY FEE THE CUSTODIAN CHARGES A REQUESTOR FOR THE RESEARCH AND RETRIEVAL OF PUBLIC RECORDS MUST BE NOMINAL IN COMPARISON TO THE TIME THE CUSTODIAN SPENDS RESPONDING TO THE VOLUME OF REQUESTS.

Recent court cases over CORA requests have defined "nominal" as "trifling," leading to this sentence being interpreted as putting a cap on the total fees, regardless of the size of the CORA request.

Local governments see this provision of the bill to mean that they might incur excessive costs, not only in research and retrieval, but also in legal review (to prevent release of confidential information), completely without recourse. The smallest local governments (small counties, municipalities, and special districts) are most concerned about receiving requests that overwhelm the agency, making it impossible to meet the time deadlines, and leading to lawsuits. While most of them have not received such requests and have been able to respond easily to CORA requests they have received, they are all aware of the few instances where CORA requests were huge and burdensome. The local governments mostly do not object to the principle of consistent charges state-wide or to the publication of the entity's policy for charging for research and retrieval.

Economic principles give us some tools to analyze the issue. There is no such thing as a free lunch. Research and retrieval of information has a cost. Economic principles tell us that when price is too high, a good or service is underused, and society is denied the benefits of it. Certainly, this is a risk in the case of charges for CORA requests. Ordinary citizens ought to be able to obtain information that is public record. When the price is too low, the good or service is overused, and that overuse crowds out other beneficial products, such as other CORA requests and the agency doing the job it is supposed to do. Setting the price too low encourages inefficient use of CORA, or worse.

The challenge is to find the balance. The House Local Government Committee worked to do that when it heard the bill on Feb. 19. An amendment to change the maximum fee to four times the minimum wage passed. An amendment to delete the “nominal fee” (above) and allow charging of actual costs failed. However, an amendment to eliminate the problematic language passed. The bill moved to the floor on a 9-4 vote. The removal of that passage may not satisfy activists, and may not be the end of the story. Voting for: Exum, Garcia, Gardner, Lebsock, Navarro, Rosenthal, Wright, Singer, Fields. Voting against: Dore, Landgraf, Rankin, Vigil.

Christine Watson 303.250.1796

**ELECTIONS**

**VOTING LAW REPEAL PROPOSED**

**SB 141 Suspend Until 2016 House Bill 13-1303 Provisions (Sens. Grantham & Lundberg; Reps. Szabo & Murray) (oppose)** This bill would repeal last year’s HB13-1303 until January 1, 2016. We can see no benefits to the voters of Colorado from this bill. The elections conducted under HB13-1303 went remarkably well. The electors were unaware of any problems and were happy to have no question of whether they were active or not or whether they would get a ballot or not, to know when and how they could register, and to have the availability of drop-off locations and voting centers in their area made clear.

One provision of HB 13-1303 that has caused the most debate is the one allowing same day registration. It was highlighted when a citizen of Boulder ostensibly moved to Colorado Springs, registered to vote there on election day, and cast a ballot (reportedly blank). A bill to address that sole provision of the law – or any other specific provisions that are thought to be problematic – would lead to constructive debate. Rolling back the law

would cost local governments substantial monies in rearranging elections. It would also confuse voters, 75% of whom found that mail balloting met their needs.

SB 141 will be heard in House State Affairs on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Previously reported LL#2, p. 21.

Carol Tone 303.377.3746

**ELECTION LAW SIGNED**

**HB 1164 Nonpartisan elections Not Coordinated Cnty Clerks (Rep. Hullinghorst; Sen. Ulibarri) (support)** What started out as a bipartisan bill to clarify some aspects of municipal and special district elections, particularly with regard to discrepancies in residency requirements, soon became a very partisan battle. After passing in the House on January 30<sup>th</sup>, it was heard in Senate State Affairs on February 5<sup>th</sup>. It passed as amended to the full Senate by a 3-2 vote: Aguilar, Jones and Ulibarri for and Harvey and Herpin against.

Second Reading debate on February 10 was long and strident, with many, many proposed amendments. A few of them were viewed as friendly and passed. The debate made it apparent that the opponents were addressing elements of last year’s HB13-1303 rather than the measures addressed by this particular bill. A final Senate vote was delayed by procedural tactics, being finalized on February 14 by a vote of 18-16-1. February 17 was a busy day for HB 1164: the House accepted the Senate’s amendments, the Speaker and Senate President signed it, sent it to the Governor, who signed it on February 18, and the bill is law.

The spring municipal and special district elections will be carried out under the procedures set forth in HB 1164. Residency requirements have been harmonized to those in effect for other elections; non-partisan elections can be all-mail if the entity (municipality or special district) chooses or can be polling place elections at the option of the entity.

Previously reported LL#2, p. 13; LL#3, p. 20.

Carol Tone 303.377.3746

**Senate Vote**

YES	18	NO	16	EXCUSED	1	ABSENT	0
Aguilar	Y	Heath	Y	King	N	Scheffel	N
Balmer	N	Herpin	N	Lambert	N	Schwartz	Y
Baumgardner	N	Hill	E	Lundberg	N	Steadman	Y
Brophy	N	Hodge	Y	Marble	N	Tochtrop	Y
Cadman	N	Jahn	Y	Newell	Y	Todd	Y
Crowder	N	Johnston	Y	Nicholson	Y	Ulibarri	Y
Grantham	N	Jones	Y	Renfroe	N	Zenzinger	Y
Guzman	Y	Kefalas	Y	Rivera	N	President	Y
Harvey	N	Kerr	Y	Roberts	N		

## VOTER ID RESTRICTIONS LOSE

**HB 1128 Reduce Voter Identity Theft (Rep. Szabo; Sen. Harvey) (oppose)** was heard in House State Affairs on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Although the proponents indicated that this was by no means a photo ID bill, it did strike the opponents as being just that. Several people testified about the difficulty some citizens have obtaining the required documentation for identification purposes if a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows their name and address is not acceptable. Concerns about potential fraud by altering these documents were voiced, despite the fact that there does not appear to be evidence of this occurring. The bill was PI'd by a 7 – 4 vote. Voting to PI: Foote, Labuda, Melton, Moreno, Williams, Salazar, Ryden. Voting No: Conti, Dore, Humphrey, Nordberg.

Previously reported: LL#3, p. 22.

Carol Tone 303.377.3746

## GUN SAFETY

### FELONS WON'T GET FIREARMS

**HB 1230 Restoration of Firearms Carry for Some Felons (Rep. Buck; Sen. Steadman) (support)** was a tighter, cleaner version of a bill proposed in 2013. If passed, it would have allowed people who have been convicted of certain kinds of felonies to petition to have rights to own and carry firearms restored, after having completed sentences and shown they were law-abiding citizens. The breadth of the crimes raised some concern, although that could have been easily amended to be more narrow. The House Judiciary Committee was in no mood to relax any firearms restrictions and turned the bill down on February 20 by a vote of 7-4. Voting against the bill: Buckner, Court, McLachlan, Pettersen, Salazar, Lee, Kagan. Voting for the bill: Gardner, Lawrence, Murray, Waller.

Previously reported LL #3, pg. 22.

Christine Watson 303.250.1796

## JUSTICE SYSTEM

### DO WE STILL HAVE DEBTORS PRISONS?

**NEW HB 1061 Eliminate Prison for Inability to Pay Fines (Rep. Salazar; Sen. Guzman) (support)** seeks to prevent individuals from being incarcerated for an inability to pay fines assessed in a criminal case. This

would also apply to jail sentences in county and municipal courts. This bill grew out of a situation in Westminster where an individual was jailed, lost his job, and had numerous other consequences because of his inability to pay his criminal fines. This bill requires a judge to inform a defendant of his right to a hearing in the event the defendant becomes unable to pay his fines, requires personal service prior to arrest in the event that an individual is delinquent, and provides for a hearing where the defendant can provide evidence of inability to pay. Although some jurisdictions have eliminated the practice of incarcerating defendants for failure to pay, this is not uniform across the state.

The fiscal note is large, but fails to acknowledge the futility and expense of arresting and incarcerating the individual who eventually might be able to prove inability to pay, and the cost to the economy of holding these individuals in jail. To provide perspective, for a minimum wage worker, a fine for a DUI could be as much as 1-2 months net income. For a middle class person earning \$100,000, if the fine were levied for percentage of income, a similar net income fine would be somewhere in the range of \$8,000-\$10,000. This bill is up for hearing in House Judiciary on Tuesday, February 25.

Angie Layton 720.934.9497

## TRANSPORTATION

### IT'S OK TO SHARE GAS PUMPS

**NEW HB 1105 Tax Exempt Gas Sales between Gov Entities (Rep. Mitsch Bush; Sen. Todd) (support)** Governmental entities are already exempt from paying gasoline and special fuel tax under existing law, and the resale of tax exempt motor fuel by one tax-exempt government agency to another throughout the state has been commonplace. However, the Colorado Department of Revenue notified local governments last summer that the state statute prohibits the resale of tax-exempt motor fuel to another government agency. Therefore this bill codifies the prior practice allowing state and local governments to share a fuel pump to fuel government motor vehicles. This will save time and money for state and local governments and is not expected to impact local or state revenue from the collection of the gasoline and special fuel tax.

These fuel pumps are not accessible to the general public. For example, a Morgan County fuel pump is used by not only county vehicles but also by the State Patrol, Fort Morgan Police, and the Town of Log Lane Village. The bill mandates proof of a motor fuel tax



exempt certificate from any agency requesting to refuel at another government agency's fuel pump. The bill was amended on February 12 to include the intention to facilitate intergovernmental efficiencies and limit purchases in excess of 500 gallons to unforeseen emergencies only. The House Transportation and Energy committee voted 11-1 to refer the amended bill to the Finance Committee (Voting No: Everett; Excused: Coram). This bill supports the League's position on measures to improve the coordination, effectiveness, efficiency, and economical operation of local government units.

Cynthia Thorstad 720.480.8345

Harvey.) On February 19, the bill passed Third Reading in the Senate 19-16. It has been assigned to House Transportation and Energy Committee.

Cecilia Ruffing 303.863.0437

Senate Vote

YES	19	NO	16	EXCUSED	0	ABSENT	0
Aguilar	Y	Heath	Y	King	N	Scheffel	N
Balmer	N	Herpin	N	Lambert	N	Schwartz	Y
Baumgardner	N	Hill	N	Lundberg	N	Steadman	Y
Brophy	N	Hodge	Y	Marble	N	Tochtrop	Y
Cadman	N	Jahn	Y	Newell	Y	Todd	Y
Crowder	N	Johnston	Y	Nicholson	Y	Ulibarri	Y
Grantham	N	Jones	Y	Renfro	N	Zenzinger	Y
Guzman	Y	Kefalas	Y	Rivera	N	President	Y
Harvey	N	Kerr	Y	Roberts	Y		

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

**WATER**

**SAVING WATER**

**NEW** SB 103 Phase In High-efficiency Water Fixture Options (Sen. Guzman; Rep. Fischer) (support) prohibits the sale of new low-efficiency plumbing fixtures in Colorado as of Sept. 1, 2016, including shower heads, faucets, flushing urinals and toilets. At that time, SB 103 would only allow the sale of new fixtures that meet the EPA's WaterSense standards (similar to EPA's Energy Star program for appliances). SB 103 repeals less stringent existing state standards required for fixtures. The sale of *used* low-efficiency plumbing fixtures would continue to be legal. Local governments may still prescribe additional or more restrictive water conservation requirements for plumbing fixtures.

According to Denver Water, Colorado's population is projected to grow by about 5 million by 2050 (mainly along the Front Range) and one of the growth consequences is a projected water shortage of 500,000 acre feet. Implementation of this bill is projected to reduce water use by 40,000 acre feet of water. Denver Water stated that information from 3 other states that have required new high-efficiency plumbing fixtures indicate no problems with waste processing as a result of the lower water flow. The bill does not require any new funds and requires only a one-time, minimum workload increase for the state when certain reports must be reviewed.

On February 13, the Senate Ag committee passed the bill to the floor, 5-2. (Voting Yes: Guzman, Roberts, Tochtrop, Jones, Schwartz. Voting No: Brophy and

**REVISIONS TO STATE WATER PLANNING**

**SB 115 Statewide Water Plan Public Review & GA Approval (Sens. Roberts & Schwartz; Reps. Fischer & Coram) (watch)** was heard in Senate Agriculture on February 13. A strike-below amendment was presented, and the new bill language clarifies what the duties of the legislature will be in dealing with a state water plan developed by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) with input from many public groups. It encourages engagement of the public, affirms delegation of policy making authority to the CWCB, and gives direction to the General Assembly to promote policies, processes, basin roundtable plans and interbasin compact negotiations in the development of a statewide water plan. The Interim Water Resources Review Committee will review the plan and any updates that are submitted annually and encourage more public input. The interim committee will also review the initial plan and provide feedback to the CWCB by November 1, 2015. The interim water committee shall also be able every 5 years to prepare a list of specific topics they deem necessary to be addressed in a statewide water plan. There were few testifying, but most were in agreement with the amendment. It passed Senate Agriculture on a 6-1 vote (Brophy voting No) and is going to Senate Appropriations.

Previously reported: LL#3, p. 26.

Jeannette Hillery 303.494.7718

**ENERGY**

**TRANSPARENCY IN MINERAL RIGHTS**

**NEW** SB 9 Disclose Separate Ownership Mineral Estate (Sen. Hodge; Rep. Moreno) (support) requires that sellers of real estate must inform buyers that a separate mineral estate may subject the property to oil, gas or mineral extraction. The Real Estate Commission

in the Department of Regulatory Affairs will promulgate rules by January 1, 2015. This process will serve to alert buyers of real estate when the surface and mineral rights on a property have been severed and should reduce future conflicts if the owner of the mineral rights decides to develop them.

The bill passed the Senate unanimously January 24 with Sens. Balmer, Brophy, Grantham, and Renfroe excused and Sen. Nicholson absent. It was assigned to House Transportation & Energy.

Sigrid Higdon 303.233.8111

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

### **CHILDREN'S ISSUES**

#### **REINSTATING PARENTAL RIGHTS**

**Senate Bill 62 Reinstatement of Parent-child Legal Relationship (support)**, sponsored by **Sens. Guzman and Roberts** and **Reps. Foote and Gardner**, is making progress through the legislature. The vote in the Senate was unanimous in support of the legislation. The bill has been introduced in the House and has been set for hearing in the House Public Health Care and Human Services committee. The bill provides an additional avenue to permanency for children whose parental rights have been terminated for three years and for whom no permanent home has been found. The birth family must meet some high standards to qualify, and both the child and the family must desire reinstatement. It is projected that this new avenue for permanency could be used in 10 to 15 cases annually.

Providing an additional avenue to permanency appears to be a positive step in promoting the health and welfare of Colorado's children.

Previously reported: LL#3, p. 27.

Roberta Long-Twyman 303.377.9193

### **EDUCATION**

#### **SCHOOL TESTING DEBATED**

Six hours of testimony on **SB 136 Delay Statewide Testing Study Academic Standards (Sen. Marble; Rep. Saine) (support)** created serious questions for members of the Senate education committee on February

13, but the bill was still postponed indefinitely (killed) on a vote of 4 to 3 (Voting to PI: Todd, Zenzinger, Johnston, Kerr. Voting No: Marble, Renfroe, Scheffel).

Testimony supporting the delay came from a variety of citizens. Concerns covered a wide range: too much federal control over schools/states rights; too much testing and too little time for instruction; opposition to the Common Core standards; the fact that the tests are computerized, on-line tests and most districts (including Cherry Creek) are not fully equipped to handle testing all children, the standards are too difficult/not challenging enough, the tests are not fully tested, etc. Opponents of the delay indicated that the state's districts are too far along in the implementation of the standards to pause now, that implementation of the mandated reforms (SB 191/teacher effectiveness and the READ Act) would be harmed. While admitting concerns with the tests themselves and lack of equipment, even the Colorado Education Association indicated lack of support for delay.

An additional testing bill the League did not tackle, **HB 1202 Accountability Requirements for School Districts (Rep. Scott; Sens. Todd & Scheffel)** drew a similar crowd primarily opposed to too many high-stakes tests. The bill morphed from allowing certain districts to opt out of state mandated tests to a study. As we go to press a bi-partisan effort is in progress to establish a committee/task force acceptable to all parties. League wants to make sure that the testing system creates an effective and equitable process of assessing student skills. There is serious question at present that the current testing program provides that.

Previously reported: LL#3, p. 28.

Sally Augden 303.455.5800

### **HEALTH CARE**

#### **HEALTHCARE BILLS ADVANCE**

**HB 1051 Dev. Disability Services Strategic Plan (Reps. Schafer & Landgraf; Sens. Kefalas & Crowder) (support)** The bill addresses development of a strategic plan by the department of health care policy and financing (HCPF) for enrolling persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities at the time services are needed and requires annual reporting on the number of persons waiting for supports and services. The bill is consistent with League support of quality and effectiveness in healthcare delivery systems.

Introduced in the House on January 8, the bill was assigned to Public Health Care & Human Services. It was heard January 28 where it was referred amended, with a unanimous vote, to the House Committee of the Whole. The bill passed House Second Reading on February 3 and House Third Reading unanimously on February 4. The bill was introduced in the Senate on February 6 and assigned to Health & Human Services.

Previously reported: LL#1, p. 9.

**HB 1053 Consistent Requirements Pediatric Dental Benefits (Rep. McCann; Sen. Aguilar) (support)**

League supports this bill which gives the insurance commissioner authority to adopt rules to provide consistency of pediatric dental benefits inside and outside the Colorado health benefit exchange. The bill is in line with League positions on efforts to streamline, enhance clarity and transparency and provide overall effective healthcare delivery systems.

The bill passed Senate Second Reading on February 11 and Third Reading on February 12. The bill was signed by the Governor on February 19.

Previously reported: LL#1, p. 9; LL#2, p. 17; LL#3, p. 29.

**Senate Vote**

YES	19	NO	16	EXCUSED	0	ABSENT	0
Aguilar	Y	Heath	Y	King	N	Scheffel	N
Balmer	N	Herpin	N	Lambert	N	Schwartz	Y
Baumgardner	N	Hill	N	Lundberg	N	Steadman	Y
Brophy	N	Hodge	Y	Marble	N	Tochtrop	Y
Cadman	N	Jahn	Y	Newell	Y	Todd	Y
Crowder	Y	Johnston	Y	Nicholson	Y	Ulibarri	Y
Grantham	N	Jones	Y	Renfro	N	Zenzinger	Y
Guzman	Y	Kefalas	Y	Rivera	N	President	Y
Harvey	N	Kerr	Y	Roberts	N		

**NEW HB 1207 CDPHE Household Medication Take-back Program (Rep. Young; Sens. Aguilar & Newell) (support)** The bill requires the Department of Public Health and Environment to establish a household medication take-back program to collect and dispose of unused household medications. The program allows individuals to dispose of unused household medications at approved collection sites and for carriers to transport unused household medications from approved collection sites to disposal locations. The bill specifies that collection sites, carriers, and disposal locations that act in good faith are not subject to liability for incidents arising from the collection, transport, or disposal of household medications. The bill creates the household medication take-back cash fund for the implementation of the program.

League supports the bill for encouraging a quality healthcare system where proper disposal of medications decreases accidental poisonings or improper use of medications. League additionally supports a medication take-back program from the standpoint of protecting water resources and the environment which are impacted when medications are flushed into the water supply.

Introduced in the House on January 30, the bill was assigned to Health, Insurance, & Environment where it was heard on February 13 and referred unamended to Finance on a vote of 10-1. (Voting No: Humphrey). It is scheduled to be heard in Finance on March 5.

**NEW SB 144 Family Medicine Residency Programs in Rural Areas (Sens. Aguilar & Nicholson; Rep. Ginal) (support)**

The bill extends the commission in support of the development of family medicine residency programs in rural and other underserved areas of the state, removing the 2016 commission repeal date. The bill requires a study and report of family medicine residency programs in rural and underserved areas of the state and must include an evaluation and recommendations concerning the use of Medicaid graduate medical education funding to support residency programs. The study is to be submitted to committees of the general assembly. League supports this bill which is consistent with its program policies for improving healthcare access.

Introduced in the Senate on February 13, the bill was assigned to Health & Human Services and will be heard on February 27.

All reported by Carol Pace 303.751.4125

**INCOME ASSISTANCE**

**PROTECTING WORKERS**

**NEW SB 5 Wage Protection Act (Rep. Singer and Sen. Ulibarri) (support)** would provide additional employees at the Department of Labor and Employment to assist individuals who are victims of wage theft and provides additional tools for the department to use in pursuing wage claims against employers. Estimates of lost wages in the state of Colorado run as high as \$750,000,000. The failure to pay wages deprives the state of tax revenue and also hurts federal funds like FICA and Medicare. Wage theft hurts the working poor but can occur in higher paid jobs as well. This bill also addresses to some degree the unfair advantage that employers who have questionable business practices

have over employers who play by the rules. The bill passed the Judiciary Committee 3-2 (voting Yes: Johnston, Newell, Guzman; voting No: King, Lundberg) and passed to Appropriations from Finance by 3-2 (voting Yes: Ulibarri, Kerr, Johnston; voting No: Grantham, Hill). The bill was referred to Appropriations on February 4.

Angie Layton 720.934.9497

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVANCES**

**HB 1017 Expand Availability of Affordable Housing (Rep. Duran; Sen. Ulibarri) (support)** addresses an ongoing shortage of affordable housing that has only been made worse by recent fires and floods. As amended by the House Finance committee, property owners affected by disasters will be given priority for loans from the Housing Investment Trust Fund and grants from the Housing Development Grant Fund. Tax credits for developments in counties impacted by disasters may exceed the usual annual limit.

A further amendment requires reporting on qualified developments, including location, demographics, and any remaining disparities in the affordability of housing in the community.

The Finance committee sent the amended bill to Appropriations on a 7-5 vote. Voting Yes: Becker, Foote, Kagan, Melton, Pabon, Labuda, Court. Voting No: Joshi, Priola, Saine, Swalm, Wilson. Excused: DelGrosso.

Previously reported: LL#2, p. 18.

Julie Leonard 720.384.8421

## **AID TO DISABLED ADVANCES**

**SB 12 Aid to the Needy Disabled Program (Sen. Kefalas; Rep. Exum) (support)** would increase the small amount of monthly assistance provided to disabled Colorado residents. AND benefits are currently down to \$175/month; SB 12 would raise that to 28% of the federal poverty level or about \$268.

Senate Finance sent the bill unamended to Appropriations. Voting Yes: Ulibarri, Kerr, Johnston. Voting No: Grantham. Excused: Hill.

Previously reported: LL#1, p. 10; LL#3, p. 30.

Julie Leonard 720.384.8421

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

### **AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE SUICIDES**

**NEW SB 88 Suicide Prevention Commission (Rep. Kraft-Tharp; Sen. Newell) (support)** seeks to establish a suicide prevention commission made up of a cross-section of public and private individuals anticipated as a public private partnership to examine the issue of suicides in the state of Colorado and to address issues related to suicide prevention. State staffing is funded through gifts, grants and donations. The bill as amended was referred to Appropriations on February 13.

Angie Layton 720.934.9497



## STATUS SHEET

The Status Sheet is a constantly updated list of bills being followed by Legislative Action Committee members.

New bills are in **boldface**.

S=Support O=Oppose SIP=Support in Part OIP=Oppose in Part W=Watch or Monitor

POLICY AREA	S/H	BILL #	BILL TITLE	S/O	PAGE	STATUS
Administration	HB	1112	Authorize Clerks To Redact Social Security Numbers	S	21	S-LG
<b>Administration</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1193</b>	<b>Research Retrieval Fees Public Records Under CORA</b>	<b>SIP</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>H-3rd Rdg</b>
Children's Issues	SB	62	Reinstatement Of Parent-child Legal Relationship	S	27,37	H-PHC
Children's Issues	HB	1149	Advertising Children To Transfer Care Trafficking	S	12,28	H-App
Education	SB	33	Tax Credits For Non-Public Education	O	8,16	PI'd
Education	SB	136	Delay Statewide Testing Study Academic Standards	S	28,38	PI'd
Education	HB	1076	Early Childhood Quality Incentive Program	S	16	H-App
Education	HB	1085	Adult Education and Literacy Programs	S	28	H-App
Elections	SB	71	Mail Ballot Opt Out	S	14,22	PI'd
Elections	SB	84	Elect County Commissioners By Districts	S	21	H-SA
Elections	SB	141	Suspend Until 2016 House Bill 13-1303 Provisions	O	21, 34	S-SA
Elections	HB	1062	Optional Approval Voting In Nonpartisan Elections	S	13	H-SA
Elections	HB	1128	Reduce Voter Identity Theft	O	22, 35	PI'd
Elections	HB	1164	Nonpartisan Elections Not Coordinated Cnty Clerks	S	13,20,34	Signed
Energy	SB	35	Renewable Energy Std Repeal SB 13-252	O	27	PI'd
<b>Energy</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Disclose Separate Ownership Mineral Estate</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>H-T&amp;E</b>
Energy	HB	1030	Hydroelectric Generation Incentive	S	27	S-Ag
Energy	HB	1067	Renewable Energy Electric Std REAs Move To 2025	O	26	PI'd
Energy	HB	1113	Electric Renewable Energy Standard Reduction	O	26	PI'd
Energy	HB	1138	Renewable Energy Std Add Hydroelectric To Eligible	O	27	PI'd
Gun Safety	SB	38	Governor Cannot Restrict Firearms During Emergency	O	14	PI'd
Gun Safety	SB	94	Background Checks And Fees For Gun Transfers	O	14,22	PI'd
Gun Safety	SB	100	Repeal Large-capacity Ammunition Magazine Ban	O	23	PI'd
Gun Safety	HB	1041	Concealed Handgun Without Permit	O	14,22	PI'd
Gun Safety	HB	1063	Deadly Force Against Intruders At Businesses	O	14,22	PI'd
Gun Safety	HB	1151	Repeal Ammunition Magazine Prohibition	O	14	PI'd
Gun Safety	HB	1157	Policies Allowing Concealed Carry in Public School	O	14	PI'd
Gun Safety	HB	1166	Renewal Of Handgun Permits	W	14	S-SA
Gun Safety	HB	1230	Restoration Of Firearm Carry Right For Some Felons	S	22, 35	PI'd
Health Care	SB	16	CDPHE Regulate Freestanding Emergency Centers	S	16	S-HHS
Health Care	SB	50	Financial Assistance In Colorado Hospitals	S	29	S-HHS
<b>Health Care</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>Family Medicine Residency Programs In Rural Areas</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>S-HHS</b>
Health Care	HB	1045	Breast & Cervical Cancer Treatment	S	9	H-App
Health Care	HB	1051	Dev Disability Services Strategic Plan	S	9,38	S-HHS
Health Care	HB	1053	Consistent Requirements Pediatric Dental Benefits	S	9,17,29,38	Signed
Health Care	HB	1115	Medicaid Expansion Private Insurance Pilot Program	W	29	H-App
Health Care	HB	1192	Repeal Health Benefit Exchange	O	29	H-PHC
<b>Health Care</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1207</b>	<b>CDPHE Household Medication Take-back Program</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>H-Fin</b>
Health Care	HB	1257	Performance Audit Health Benefit Exchange	W	29	H-HIE
Higher Education	SB	1	College Affordability Act	S	10	S-App
<b>Income Assistance</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Wage Protection Act</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>S-App</b>
Income Assistance	SB	12	Aid To The Needy Disabled Program	S	10,30,40	S-App
Income Assistance	SB	14	Prop Tax Rent Heat Fuel Grants For Low-income	S	10,30	S-App
Income Assistance	HB	1015	Extend Transitional Jobs Program	S	17	H-App

Income Assistance	HB	1017	Expand Availability Of Affordable Housing	S	18,40	H-App
Income Assistance	HB	1072	Income Tax Credit For Child Care Expenses	S	18	H-Fin
Justice System	SB	69	Swift Justice Act	O	23	PI'd
<b>Justice System</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>Eliminate Prison For Inability To Pay Fines</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>H-Jud</b>
Justice System	HB	1069	District Commissions On Judicial Performance	S	23	S-Jud
<b>Justice System</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1273</b>	<b>Human Trafficking</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>H-Jud</b>
Juvenile Justice	HB	1023	Social Workers For Juveniles	S	23	H-App
Juvenile Justice	HB	1032	Defense Counsel For Juvenile Offenders	S	7	H-Jud
<b>Mental Health</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>Suicide Prevention Commission</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>S-App</b>
Reproductive Freedom	HB	1049	Offenses Against Unborn Children	O	15,24	PI'd
Reproductive Freedom	HB	1133	Protect Human Life At Conception	O	15	H-Jud
Transportation	SB	28	Expand Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grants	S	24	H-T&E
Transportation	SB	75	Deployed Military Motor Vehicle Fee & Taxes	S	24	S-App
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>1105</b>	<b>Tax Exempt Gas Sales Between Gov Entities</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>H-Fin</b>
Water	SB	115	State Water Plan Public Review & GA Approval	W	26,37	S-App
Water	SB	25	Wastewater Treatment Small Communities Grants	S	8,15	To Gov
<b>Water</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>Phase In High-efficiency Water Fixture Options</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>H-T&amp;E</b>
Water	HB	1002	Water Infrastructure Natural Disaster Grant Fund	S	8,26	H-App
Water	HB	1005	Relocate Ditch Headgate Without Change Case	S	8,25	S-2nd Rdg
Water	HB	1026	Water Flexible Markets	S	15,25	S-Ag

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