

LEGISLATIVE LETTER[®]
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO
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January 25, 2016

LL#1:1

ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed and active participation in government and influence public policy issues through education and advocacy. **It is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.**

The League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) has over 1300 members, women and men, in 19 local Leagues:

Adams County
Arapahoe and Douglas Counties
Archuleta County
Boulder County
Chaffee County
Denver
Estes Park
Greeley-Weld County
Gunnison Area
Jefferson County

La Plata County
Larimer County
Mesa County
Montezuma County
Montrose County, also serving Delta County
Pikes Peak Region
Pueblo
Routt County
Sterling Area

The League is organized around two main functions: **VOTER EDUCATION and PROGRAM.**

VOTER EDUCATION provides nonpartisan information about ballot issues and candidates to help voters make informed decisions at election time. In addition to encouraging eligible voters to register and vote, the League helps them understand the political process and promotes active participation in government. Voter Education work is funded by the League of Women Voters of Colorado Education Fund, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit. Support comes from grants and in-kind and financial contributions.

The **PROGRAM** or **ADVOCACY** area is separate from Voter Education. The League takes action on public policy issues, supporting or opposing issues after thorough study and consensus by our members. Action may include workshops for members, lobbying government officials, petition drives, publishing information for the general public and the news media, and holding public forums. Program work is organized by the League of Women Voters of Colorado, a 501(c) (4) nonprofit. Financial support for the program area comes from membership, conferences and special events, contributions, and publications.

Board members and volunteers donate hundreds of hours to voter education and advocacy, including: researching ballot issues, lobbying at the legislature, hosting and broadcasting public forums, and writing reports and other publications.

HOW DOES THE LEAGUE ADOPT POLICY POSITIONS?

League members at the local level choose public policy issues for study and action. Study makes action possible by giving members the opportunity to examine facts, pro and con arguments, and political realities. League positions are reached through a process of consensus, which is not a majority vote or a unanimous decision. It is the "sense of the group" developed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. League action can take place only after consensus (or concurrence with another League's position) has been reached and a position adopted.

The LWVCO **Legislative Action Committee** meets biweekly during the legislative session to review pending bills in light of established League policy positions. Decisions to support, oppose, or "watch" bills are arrived at by consensus after reviewing all information available at the time. As bills change, it is sometimes necessary to change positions, and those decisions are also made by consensus of the committee.

ADVOCACY AGENDA 2016

Elections and Voting Adequate Funding Resources Preserving Quality of Life

Issues on the Advocacy Agenda will take priority in League's 2016 work in the legislature and in education activities across Colorado. In the area of elections and voting, we will continue to protect access to the ballot for all eligible voters. The now-healthy economy reminds us a balance must be maintained between using natural and financial resources for growth and maintaining the quality of life of our communities, both rural and urban. Our state's long term stability depends on adequately funded, practical policies for education, for helping those living with behavioral health issues, and for strengthening our state infrastructure. These priorities shape our decisions about using resources, but do not limit the scope of legislative advocacy.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

President	Barbara Mattison	303.322.4878
Legislative Action Chair	Jean Fredlund	303.428.5420
Staff Lobbyist	Christine Watson	303.250.1796
Executive Director	Julie Leonard	303.863.0437

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP IN 2016

SENATE

President of the Senate	Bill Cadman
President Pro-Tem	Ellen Roberts
Majority Leader	Mark Scheffel
Asst. Majority Leader	Kevin Lundberg
Minority Leader	Lucia Guzman
Asst. Minority Leader	Rollie Heath
Majority Caucus Chair	Vicki Marble
Majority Whip	Randy Baumgardner
Minority Caucus Chair	Jessie Ulibarri
Minority Whip	Matt Jones

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker of the House	Dickey Hullinghorst
Speaker Pro-Tem	Dan Pabon
Majority Leader	Crisanta Duran
Asst. Majority Leader	Dominick Moreno
Majority Caucus Chair	Angela Williams
Majority Whip	Su Ryden
Minority Leader	Brian DelGrosso
Asst. Minority Leader	Polly Lawrence
Minority Caucus Chair	Lois Landgraf
Minority Whip	Perry Buck

CAPITAL DIRECTORY

Information Center/Bill Room	303.866.3055
Governor's Office	303.866.2471
Joint Budget Committee	303.866.2061
Legislative Council	303.866. 3521
Legislative Legal Services	303.866.2045
Reviser of Statutes	303.866.2045
House Members—both parties	303.866.2904
Democratic Senators	303.866.4865
Republican Senators	303.866.4866
State Planning & Budgeting	303.866.3317

Toll-free number from outside Metro area	
Governor	800.238.7215
Senate	800.473.8136
House	800.811.7647

Legislative Home Page:
www.leg.state.co.us/

View House or Senate Floor action on
Comcast Channel 165.

2016 HOUSE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, & NATURAL RESOURCES

Representatives Vigil, (Chair); Becker, KC (Vice-Chair); Arndt, Becker, J., Brown, Buck, Coram, Danielson, Dore, Ginal, Lebsock, Mitsch Bush, Saine.

Staff: Meghan O'Connor
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0107)
Wed., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0107)

APPROPRIATIONS

Representatives Young (Chair); Hamner, (Vice-Chair); Becker, J., Dore. Everett, Joshi, McCann, Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Singer, Wilson, Winter.

Staff: Alfredo Kemm
Fri., 7:30-9:00 (LSB-A)
Other times as announced

BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND LABOR

Representatives: A. Williams (Chair); Kraft-Tharp (Vice-Chair); Arndt, Garnett, Keyser, Navarro, Nordberg, Pabon, Rosenthal, Roupe, Sias, Thurlow, Winter.

Staff: Luisa Altmann
Tuesday, All Day (LSB-A)
Thurs. 1:30-6:00 (LSB-A)

EDUCATION

Representatives Pettersen (Chair); Lee (Vice-Chair); Buckner, Everett, Fields, Garnett, Lundeen, Moreno, Priola, Wilson, Windholz.

Staff: Lisa Gezelter
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0112)
Wed. Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0112)

FINANCE

Representatives Court (Chair); Foote (Vice-Chair); Becker, KC, Conti, Garnett, Kagan, Pabon, Priola, Roupe, Van Winkle, Wilson.

Staff: Katie Ruedebusch
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (LSB-A)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (LSB-A)

HEALTH, INSURANCE & ENVIRONMENT

Representatives McCann (Chair); Ginal (Vice-Chair); Buckner, Brown, Esgar, Humphrey, Joshi, Klingenschmitt, Langraf, Lontine, Primavera, Ransom, Ryden.

Staff: Amanda King
Tuesday, Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0107)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0107)

JUDICIARY

Representatives Kagan (Chair); Lee (Vice-Chair); Carver, Court, Dore, Foote, Lawrence, Lundeen, Melton, Salazar, Willett.

Staff: Bo Pogue
Tuesday, All Day (Rm. 0112)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0112)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Representatives: Fields (Chair); Lebsock (Vice-Chair); Arndt, Danielson, Keyser, Klingenschmitt, Navarro, Ransom, Rosenthal, Saine, Singer.

Staff: Damion Pechota
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0107)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0107)

PUBLIC HEALTH CARE & HUMAN SERVICES

Representatives Primavera (Chair); Singer (Vice-Chair); Conti, Danielson, Everett, Ginal, Joshi, Landgraf, Moreno, Pettersen, Tyler, Windholz, Wist.

Staff: Anne Wallace
Tuesday, 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0107)
Friday Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0107)

STATE, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Representatives Ryden (Chair); Lontine (Vice-Chair); Foote, Humphrey, Neville, P., Primavera, Thurlow, Tyler, Wist.

Staff: Julia Jackson
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (LSB-A)
Wed., Adj.-Noon (LSB-A)

TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY

Representatives Tyler (Chair); Mitsch Bush (Vice-Chair); Becker, J., Buck, Carver, Coram, Esgar, Kraft-Tharp, Melton, Moreno, Neville, P., Nordberg, Winter.

Staff: Matt Kiszka
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0112)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0112)

2016 SENATE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

Senators Sonnenberg (Chair); Roberts (Vice-Chair); Baumgardner, Cooke, Donovan, Garcia, Hodge, Jones, Scott.

Staff: David Beaujon
Wed., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 353)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 353)

APPROPRIATIONS

Senators Grantham (Chair); Lambert (Vice-Chair); Garcia, Hodge, Sonnenberg, Steadman, Woods.

Staff: Kevin Neimond
Fri., 7:30-9:00 (Rm. 356)
Other times as announced.

BUSINESS, LABOR, & TECHNOLOGY

Senators Holbert (Chair); Woods (Vice-Chair); Baumgardner, Heath, Hodge, Jahn, Neville, T., Newell, Tate.

Staff: Jeanette Chapman
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 354)
Tues. Adj.-Noon (Rm. 354)
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 354)

EDUCATION

Senators Hill (Chair); Marble (Vice-Chair); Holbert, Johnston, Kerr, Merrifield, Neville, T.

Staff: Rachel Kurtz-Phelan
Wed., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 356)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 356)

FINANCE

Senators Neville, T. (Chair); Hill Vice-Chair); Holbert, Johnston, Kerr.

Staff: Kori Donaldson
Tues., 1:30-6:00 (LSB-B)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (LSB-B)

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Senators Lundberg (Chair); Crowder (Vice-Chair); Aguilar, Humenik, Newell.

Staff: Elizabeth Haskell
Wed., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 352)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 352)

JUDICIARY

Senators Roberts (Chair); Lundberg (Vice-Chair); Aguilar, Cooke, Merrifield.

Staff: Conrad Imel
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (LSB-B)
Tues. Adj.-Noon (LSB-B)
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (LSB-B)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Senators Marble (Chair); Crowder (Vice-Chair); Donovan, Humenik, Kefalas, Tate, Ulibarri.

Staff: David Beaujon
Tues., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 353)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 353)

STATE, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senators Scott (Chair); Sonnenberg (Vice-Chair); Hill, Jones, Ulibarri.

Staff: Vanessa Conway
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 356)
Tues. Adj.-Noon (Rm. 356)
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 356)

TRANSPORTATION

Senators Baumgardner (Chair); Scott (Vice-Chair); Cooke, Garcia, Todd.

Staff: Jessika Shipley
Tues., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 352)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 352)

DEADLINE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2016 COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 13	General Assembly convenes.
January 29	Final deadline for introduction of Senate bills, except for the Long Bill and supplemental bills recommended by the Joint Budget Committee.
February 3	Final deadline for introduction of House bills, except supplemental bills recommended by the Joint Budget Committee.
February 8	Final deadline for introduction of supplemental bills recommended by the Joint Budget Committee.
February 11	Deadline for House committees of reference to report House bills introduced on or before the 7 th legislative day.
February 18	Deadline for Senate committees of reference to report Senate bills.
February 25	Deadline for House committees of reference to report remaining House bills.
March 2	Deadline for final passage of Senate bills in the Senate .* Deadline for final passage of House bills in the House .*
March 25	Deadline for committees of reference to report bills originating in the other house.
March 28	Deadline for introduction of the Long Bill in the House .
April 1	Deadline for final passage of the Long Bill in the House .
April 4	Deadline for final passage in the Senate of House bills.*
April 8	Deadline for final passage of the Long Bill in the Senate
April 11	Deadline for final passage in the House of all Senate bills.*
April 15	Deadline for adoption of the conference committee report on the Long Bill Deadline for Appropriations Committee in house of introduction to report bills referred to Appropriations Committee.
April 21	Deadline to introduce resolutions and bills.
April 22	Deadline for final passage in house of introduction of all bills referred to the Appropriations Committee in that house. Deadline for final passage for any school finance bills.
April 28	Deadline for committees of reference in second house to report bills referred to the Appropriations Committee in that house.
May 2	Deadline for Appropriations Committee in second house to report bills referred to it.
May 5	Deadline for final passage in second house of all bills referred its Appropriations Committee.
May 11	Adjournment sine die.

* All bills in the Appropriations Committee in either house on the day of the asterisked deadline are excluded from the final passage deadline until April 22.

GOVERNMENT

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

NEW **HB 1077 Recreate Statutory Revision Committee (Rep. Moreno; Sen. Martinez Humenik) (support)** concerns repealing or correcting obsolete, unclear, or conflicting statutes. Doing so contributes to efficient and economical government and clear assignment of responsibilities. From 1977 through 1985, such a committee existed in the General Assembly. It met its demise over removing the bounty for coyotes. Thirty years of new legislation and technological revolution later, it seems like a good idea to take a broad view of cleaning up statutes. The committee proposed would be eight representatives equally from House and Senate and equal from each party; five votes would be required to recommend legislation. If an issue receives recommendation, a bill would be drafted and introduced. Suggestions would come from all – legislators, lobbyists, community and public – although Legislative Legal Services might be the primary source of suggestions for action.

From time to time in the intervening years, various legislators have identified anachronisms in the statutes or in the Constitution. Former Sen. Dave Owens routinely proposed repeal of obsolete constitutional provisions that were referred to the ballot and were usually adopted by voters. Interest groups also occasionally bring unclear or conflicting issues forward, and the General Assembly sometimes responds to requests from the courts to clarify conflicting statutes. However, this is random. The work of the committee would be more comprehensive.

There is a fiscal note of less than \$30,000 per year, primarily for some additional time from Legislative Legal Services. HB 1077 was heard by the House State Affairs Committee on January 20 and passed by a vote of 7-2. Voting Yes: Foote, Primavera, Thurlow, Tyler, Wist, Lontine, and Ryden. Voting No: Humphrey and Neville. The bill now awaits action by the Appropriations Committee.

Christine Watson 303.250.1795

ELECTIONS

TECHNICAL CHANGES AND CLEAN-UPS IN ELECTIONS

NEW **HB 1012 Clerk File Copy of Mun Election Results with DOLA (Rep. Ryden; Sen. Scott)**

(support) would require municipal clerks to file municipal election results with the division of local government in the department of local affairs, rather than with the Secretary of State's office. This is a bipartisan bill and appears to be a reasonable good government bill. Assigned to House State Affairs. Set for hearing on February 1 at 1:30 p.m., LSB-A.

NEW **HB 1070 Signature Verification in Mun Mail Ballot Election (Rep. Neville; Sen. Neville) (support)** would require signature verification between the mail ballot return envelope self-affirmation and the voter's signature in the SCORE database. This is the same procedure followed currently in general elections and will be effective for municipal mail ballot elections after March 30, 2018. Municipalities are supportive and believe they will be able to comply technologically with the requirements. Assigned to House State Affairs. Set for hearing on February 1 at 1:30 p.m., LSB-A.

NEW **HB 1093 Election List Maintenance Procedures (Rep. Ransom; Sen. Tate) (support)** is a cleanup bill that distinguishes between the use of a "confirmation card" and other correspondence to a voter to confirm a voter's address and whether the voter has moved. The term "confirmation card," which means correspondence from the county clerk that is sent via forwardable mail to a voter's address of record, is currently used in the statute in places where what is intended is more generic correspondence. The bill also addresses some cleanup issues related to the national change-of-address database procedures used by the counties to update voter records. Assigned to House State Affairs. Not yet set for hearing.

All reported by Elizabeth Steele 303.349.3331

JUSTICE SYSTEM

NO TO FACILITATING DEATH SENTENCES

NEW **SB 64 Death Penalty Jury Decision (Lundberg: None) (oppose)** This bill would change the deciding vote of a jury from unanimous to only 9 out of 12 to allow the state to put someone to death. The LWV has a long history of opposing the death penalty, and this would make it easier rather than harder. The increasing number of people in Colorado and nationally who have been shown to be convicted of serious and capital crimes erroneously shouts for caution in applying the death penalty. It has been assigned to the Judiciary Committee but is not yet scheduled.

Jean Fredlund 303.428.5420

SUPPORT FOR THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNCIL

NEW **HB 1033 Travel Costs & Members Human Trafficking Council (Rep. McCann & Nordberg; Sen. Kefalas & Newell) (support)** The Human Trafficking Council was created by House Bill 14-1273 to assist with the successful prosecution of human traffickers and to help prevent human trafficking in Colorado. This bill allows members of the Human Trafficking Council to be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on the council. This bill also removes the requirement that one member of the council be appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and instead requires that one person representing the judiciary be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

This bill is expected to increase state General Fund expenditures in the Department of Public Safety by up to \$12,000 beginning in FY 2016-17 to pay for the travel expenses of council members. These additional costs can be absorbed with the existing appropriation to the Department of Public Safety, and no new appropriation is required.

The bill is assigned to the Health, Insurance, and Environment Committee and scheduled for a hearing on January 28th.

Kimberly Love 303.863.0437

VOTING RIGHTS

PHOTO IDs REDEVELOPED

NEW Once again, the issue of photo ID in order to register and vote is back. **HB 1111 Same Day Voter Registration with Photo ID (Rep. Coram; None) (oppose)** would require a photo ID in order to register to vote during the 29-day period prior to or on Election Day. The bill enumerates the acceptable forms of photo ID, all of which are government-issued except student photo IDs issued by an institution of higher education in Colorado. In addition to our traditional concerns about disenfranchisement as a result of such requirements, the bill is also of concern because it provides for the referral of the photo ID question to a vote of Colorado voters at the November 2016 election. Assigned to House State Affairs. Not yet set for hearing.

Elizabeth Steele 303.349.3331

NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

NEW **HB 1004 Measureable Goals Deadlines CO Climate Action Plan (Reps. Winter & Arndt; None) (support)** would require the state climate action plan to include specific, measurable goals that would either reduce greenhouse gas emissions or increase Colorado's adaptive capability to respond to climate change, along with associated near-term, mid-term, and long term deadlines to achieve the goals. It would also require a yearly report to the general assembly on the progress of meeting the goals. This will be heard on Feb. 2 in House Health, Insurance & Environment.

ABANDONED MINES

NEW **SJM 1, Good Samaritan Remediation Abandoned Mines (Sen. Roberts; Reps. Coram & Mitsch Bush) (support)** requests that the Colorado Legislature urge Congress to pass legislation establishing a Good Samaritan exemption from liability under the Clean Water Act and CERCLA (Superfund) as a step toward preventing another disaster like the Gold King Mine spill and remediating other draining abandoned hard rock mines in Colorado. There are over 22,000 abandoned mines in Colorado, and many have acid mine drainage which impairs water bodies in the state. More groups might come forward to do clean ups thereby improving water quality. Although this will not produce an immediate result, it is a start to get federal legislation in this area. This is assigned to House Agriculture, but no date has been set for a hearing.

Both reported by Jeannette Hillery 303.494.7718

WATER

RAIN BARRELS RETURN

NEW **HB 1005 Residential Precipitation Collection (Reps. Esgar & Danielson; Sen. Merrifield) (support)** is the same bill introduced in the 2015 session allowing collection of precipitation from a residential rooftop of a maximum of two rain barrels with a combined storage of 110 gallons, to be used by a single family residence and used on that property for outdoor purposes. It requires the State Engineer to provide information on the permitted use of rain barrels on the state website. It would also require the Department of Public Health and Environment, where practicable, to develop best practices for use of nonpotable rain water and vector control. It would prohibit HOAs from prohibiting unit

owners from using rain barrels for use. This is a small tool in the toolbox for conserving and using water available without impacting other water rights holders. It has been assigned to House Agriculture, but there is no hearing date yet.

Jeannette Hillery 303.494.7718

SOCIAL POLICY

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

TWEAKS TO MENTAL HEALTH PROCEDURES

NEW **HB 1063 Mental Health Professional Disclosure; School Safety (Rep. Foote) (support)** This bill provides an exception to current law prohibiting disclosure of confidential communications with a mental health professional when school safety is at risk, when the mental health professional's client **either**: makes a direct threat against a school or its occupants, or exhibits behavior that may jeopardize the safety or well-being of students, faculty, staff, parents, or the general public.

The bill was assigned to the House Judiciary Committee and is scheduled to be heard on February 11.

NEW **SB 39 Mental Health and Collaborative Management Teams (Sens. Newell and Martinez Humenik; Reps. Lee and Singer) (support)** This bill adds a mental health professional to the list of persons to be included in any memorandum of understanding entered into between interested county departments of social or human services and other local-level service providers when the memorandum is established as a means of promoting a collaborative system of local-level interagency oversight and services to children and families. The bill was passed unanimously by Senate State, Veteran & Military Affairs committee on January 20 and referred to Senate Committee of the Whole to be placed on the consent calendar.

NEW **SB 77 Employment First for Persons with Disabilities (Sens. Kefalas and Aguilar; Reps. Ginal and Primavera) (watch)** This bill requires the heads of several state departments to develop an employment first policy that increases competitive integrated employment for persons with disabilities. The departments are Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF), Labor & Employment (CDLE), Education (CDE), and Higher Education (CDHE). Agency partners shall consult with the employment first advisory board as part of developing and implementing the employment first policy.

The bill was assigned to the Senate Finance Committee but has not been scheduled.

All reported by Linda Rinehart 720.989.8944

CHILDREN'S ISSUES

CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN BILL SCHEDULED FOR HEARING

NEW **SB 13 Clean-up Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman (Sens. Newell; Rep. Singer) (support)** is scheduled to be heard in Senate Judiciary on February 1. This bill has bi-partisan support with Senator Lundberg as a co-sponsor.

The bill changes the audit requirement for the Office so that it is the same as it is for all other state agencies and offices. Audits of state agencies and offices are conducted by the state auditor when requested by the Legislative Audit Committee or any legislator.

In order to ensure maximum independence for the office, the bill clarifies that the child protection ombudsman board's duties are advisory only, and it clarifies the roles of the board, the ombudsman and the office. It also clarifies that the Ombudsman cannot be subpoenaed by independent parties to testify in private custody battles. That was never an intended role for the Ombudsman.

Carla Bennett 303.757.2930

EDUCATION

LEAVE FOR ATTENDING CHILDREN'S ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

NEW **HB 1002 Employee Leave Attend Child's Academic Activities (Rep. Buckner; Sen. Kerr) (support)** This bill allows employees to request unpaid leave for academic activities. It is limited to employers with more than 50 employees, provides various exemptions for vital workers, and limits the amount of time employees can request. This bill is important to allow parents to be integral parts in helping schools raise academic performance of their children.

The bill is scheduled to be heard in House Education on January 25th.

Angie Layton 303.926.1197

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

NEW **HB 1001 State Contr Certify Compliance with Equal Pay Laws (Reps. Danielson & Buckner; None) (support)** This bill requires any entity that contracts with the state to certify that it complies with equal pay for equal work laws. This seems a good step towards ensuring that all workers are treated fairly if the employer does work for the State. We hope that the records that are required will, in fact, show that employees are receiving equal treatment, or that they will reveal inequities that the employer can address. That is the challenge facing the Department of Personnel and Employment and others.

The bill has been assigned to House Business Affairs and Labor Committee, but it has not yet been scheduled for hearing.

Angie Layton 720.926.1197

HEALTH CARE

ASSISTANCE IN ENDING LIFE

NEW **HB 1054 and SB 25 End of Life Options for Terminally Ill Individuals (For information only)** These identical bills are sponsored by **Reps. Court and Ginal** in the House and **Sen. Merrifield** in the Senate. They address the same serious, important question: does an individual have a legal right to request, and do physicians have a legal right to provide to the patient, a means to hasten the end of life in the situation of terminal illness. Generally speaking, there are two objections to such a right. One rests in religious teachings and the moral values that come from many religious traditions. The other rests in the fear of abuse. A law making it legal to aid a person in accelerating the end of his life must address the risks and provide protections.

These bills provide many protections. Are the protections sufficient for the terminally ill? Are they sufficient for the providers and the families? The answers to those questions will come from education and discussion and soul searching. Neither the League of Women Voters of Colorado nor the League of Women Voters US have engaged in a course of study and consensus on the issue of end of life options for terminally ill individuals that includes actively accelerating death. As a result, we can take no position for or against these two bills.

This is an important subject for League members, and we encourage local leagues to learn more. We will be very attentive to the bills as they are debated in committee and will report to our membership. Sponsors have shown great courage in bringing the bills once again, and we thank them for helping all of us to be able to make good decisions about this aspect of end of life decisions.

Christine Watson 303.250.1795

A LOT OF LITTLE CHANGES AND A FEW CLUNKERS

NEW **HB 1015 Contingent Repeal Health Care Laws Aligning with ACA (Rep. Klingenschmitt; none) (oppose)** The bill provides for an automatic repeal of certain state health insurance laws that are triggered if comparable federal law requirement under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is repealed by Congress and approved by the President. League supports the Affordable Care Act and the increased access to health care as well as Colorado legislation in support of and complementary to the ACA and is opposed to a bill which seeks to reverse the significant progress in health care quality, access, and affordability that has been made.

The bill was assigned to State, Veterans & Military Affairs for hearing February 3.

NEW **HB 1047 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Reps. Buck & Winter; Sens. Newell & Roberts) (support)** The bill authorizes the governor to enter into an interstate compact with 11 other states to allow physicians licensed in a member state to obtain an expedited license, enabling them to practice medicine in Colorado and vice versa. The bill is consistent with League position as this may serve to improve access to health care in rural and underserved areas of the state.

The bill was assigned to Health, Insurance, & Environment and will be heard February 4.

NEW **HB 1065 Income Tax Credit for Home Health Care (Rep. Conti; none) (watch)**

The bill creates an income tax credit to assist a qualifying senior with health care needs in the home. Health care needs may include such things as home modifications, durable medical equipment, home health care services or telehealth equipment. The bill is consistent with League position on enhancing health care quality, access and affordability, and stand to help with the health care needs of underserved Colorado seniors. However, tax credits may not be the best way to

provide this support, from a fiscal policy standpoint. We will evaluate the bill for fiscal impact as it moves through the process.

The bill was assigned to Health, Insurance, & Environment and to Finance to be heard on January 28.

NEW **HB 1097 PUC Permit for Medicaid Transportation Providers (Reps. Coram & Moreno; Sen. Scott) (support)** The bill creates a new category of limited regulation carriers that allows providers of nonemergency transportation to Medicaid clients to operate under a limited regulation permit from the public utilities commission. The bill is consistent with League position on enhancing access to health care services, especially for underserved populations.

The bill was assigned to Transportation & Energy and will be heard on February 4.

NEW **HB 1102 Drug Production Costs Transparency (Rep. Ginal; Newell & Roberts) (support)** The bill requires a drug manufacturer that produces a prescription drug made available in Colorado and for which the wholesale acquisition cost equals or exceeds \$50,000 per year or per course of treatment to submit a report to the Colorado Commission on Affordable Health Care detailing the production costs for the drug. The report is to include costs for research and development, clinical trials/regulatory costs, materials/manufacturing/administration, acquisition costs/licensing/patents, marketing/advertising and costs paid by another entity including grants, subsidies or other support. The bill is in line with League position which supports transparency as well as health care access and affordability.

NEW **HB 1142 Rural & Frontier Health Care Preceptor Tax Credit (Rep. Buck; Sen. Crowder) (watch)** The bill offers a \$1,000 state income tax credit to a primary care health care professional, in a rural or frontier area of Colorado, who provides a training preceptorship to medical students and other eligible graduate students. Consistent with League position to increase access to health care in rural and underserved areas, this measure is anticipated to increase physician and other health care professional interest in serving the primary care needs of rural Colorado. As with HB 1065, we are concerned that tax credits may not be the best fiscal policy for financing this. We will be interested in learning more about the fiscal impacts.

The bill was assigned to Public Health & Human Services, and to Finance.

NEW **SB 2 Health Exchange Voter Approval to Impose Tax (Sen. Lundberg; Rep. Sias) (oppose)** The bill directs the Secretary of State to submit to the voters at the November 2016 state election the question of whether the health benefit exchange can impose a tax to support its ongoing operations. The bill is not consistent with League position to support the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the implementation of the ACA in Colorado with a state-based marketplace with attendant authority to carry out its mission through existing funding mechanisms (administrative fees).

The bill was assigned to Health & Human Services to be heard on January 28.

NEW **SB 27 Medicaid Option for Prescribed Drugs by Mail (Sens. Martinez Humenik & Todd; Reps. Primavera & Landgraf) (support)** For persons receiving medical assistance (Medicaid), the bill allows the option, to receive through the mail, prescribed medications for chronic medical conditions. The recipient shall pay the same copay amount as recipients receiving the medication through any other method. Additionally, the bill encourages the use of local pharmacies for the service. The bill is consistent with League position on enhancing access to health care while maintaining affordability (copays). It additionally supports local pharmacies which provide these services, which in turn supports underserved areas of Colorado where local pharmacies are important to overall health care access and delivery.

The bill was assigned to Health & Human Services, but no hearing has been set.

All reported by Carol Pace 303.863.0437

AND ONE WE WILL WATCH

NEW **SB 69 Community Paramedicine Regulation (Sen. Garcia; Rep. Pabon) (watch)** The bill provides regulatory structure for community paramedics and paramedicine agencies and for the establishment of the Community Assistance Referral and Education Services (CARES) program which is designed to, among other things, improve the health of residents and reduce the incidence of 911 calls and emergency department visits. The objectives are consistent with League positions.

The bill has been assigned to Health and Human Services.

Carol Andersen 303.863.0437

INCOME ASSISTANCE

CHILD CARE WHILE PARENTS LEARN

NEW **HB 1050 Low-income Parents Ed Child Care (Rep. Pettersen; Sen. Merrifield) (support)** was brought forward by a unanimous vote of the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission that met between sessions. As difficult as it is for parents to find and afford good child care while they're working, it's even harder while they're pursuing their own education and training. Available care and help with the costs are scattered and hard to track down. The bill would create a task force to pull together information on what's available and where and work to reduce the barriers keeping young parents from education that would increase their earning potential.

Since the level of the mother's education is a well-known predictor of how successful the child's education will be, this is a way to help two generations at once. The predicted cost is about \$25,500 for additional staff time in the Dept. of Labor and Employment. The bill will be heard in the Public Health Care and Human Services committee on Jan. 26.

Julie Leonard 720.384.8421

MORE COUNTIES IN PILOT PROGRAM

NEW **SB 22 Child Care Assistance Cliff Effect Pilot Program (Sen. Martinez Humenik; Rep. Pettersen) (support)** was first passed in 2012 and funded in 2014. Ten counties are currently trying various methods to help low-income working families transition off child-care support without destabilizing the families' situation. In particular, it's important that children's early education not be disrupted by changing preschools. More counties could join the program within the funding already allocated; so the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission proposed this bill to remove the limit of ten. More families could be helped, and data could be collected from a wider variety of counties.

The Health and Human Services Committee sent the bill to the whole Senate on a vote of 4-1. Voting Yes: Sens. Aguilar, Martinez Humenik, Newell, and Crowder. Voting No: Sen. Lundberg.

Julie Leonard 720.384.8421

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

BILL PROPOSES CLASS 1 FELONY CHARGES

NEW The annual attempt to outlaw abortion has come in the form of **HB 1113 Protect Human Life at Conception (Rep. Humphrey; Sen. Lundberg) (oppose)**. This version is nearly identical to last year's attempt, with one hugely significant change: the procedure (now referred to as "termination of the life of an unborn child") would lead to a Class 1 felony – life imprisonment or death sentence – for the provider (not the pregnant woman). To accomplish this draconian punishment, the bill would add a section to the criminal code prohibiting not only the procedure itself but "any medicine, drug, or other substance...causing or abetting" abortion. Under the strict definitions of pregnancy applied here, some forms of birth control would be prohibited, including IUDs and emergency contraception. The fiscal implications of creating more criminals are ignored.

In addition, the bill explicitly separates itself from the Offenses against Pregnant Women statutes, a group of laws intended to address cases in which fetuses are harmed or killed as a result of crimes against pregnant women. These laws (separate from criminal laws regarding harm to the pregnant women) carry penalties ranging from Class 3 felony to Class 1 misdemeanor and avoid charges of homicide.

The League strongly opposes this irresponsible escalation of penalty for actions that are legal in the United States and should be a private matter. HB 1113 will be heard in the Health, Insurance & Environment committee on Feb. 11.

HOMICIDE CHARGES FOR FETAL DEATHS

HB 1007 Offenses against an Unborn Child (Rep. Joshi; none) (oppose) attempts to enhance the Offenses against Pregnant Women laws by allowing assault or homicide charges for harm to or death of a fetus. The bill does not attempt to add the word "person" in reference to a fetus (as last year's bill with the same title did), but the suggested change to the criminal code would, in effect, confer legal personhood. It will be heard in Business Affairs & Labor; no date yet.

Both reported by Leslie Chomic 303.863.3644

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	1077	Recreate Statutory Revision Committee	S	7	H-App
Behavioral Health	SB	39	Mental Health And Collaborative Management Teams	S	9	S-2nd Rdg
Behavioral Health	SB	77	Employment First For Persons With Disabilities	W	9	S-Fin
Behavioral Health	HB	1063	Mental Hlth Professional Disclosure School Safety	S	9	H-Jud
Children's Issues	SB	13	Clean-up Office Of The Child Protection Ombudsman	S	9	S-Jud
Education	HB	1002	Employee Leave Attend Child's Academic Activities	S	9	H-Ed
Elections	HB	1012	Clerk File Copy Of Mun Election Results With DOLA	S	7	H-SVM
Elections	HB	1070	Signature Verification In Mun Mail Ballot Election	S	7	H-SVM
Elections	HB	1093	Election List Maintenance Procedures	S	7	H-SVM
Equal Opportunity	HB	1001	State Contr Certify Compliance With Equal Pay Laws	S	10	H-BAL
Health Care	SB	2	Health Exchange Voter Approval To Impose Tax	O	11	S-HHS
Health Care	SB	25	End-of-life Options For Terminally Ill Individuals	F	10	S-SVM
Health Care	SB	27	Medicaid Option For Prescribed Drugs By Mail	S	11	S-HHS
Health Care	SB	69	Community Paramedicine Regulation	W	11	S-HHS
Health Care	HB	1015	Contingent Repeal Hlth Ins Laws Aligning With ACA	O	10	H-SVM
Health Care	HB	1047	Interstate Medical Licensure Compact	S	10	H-HIE
Health Care	HB	1054	End-of-life Options For Terminally Ill Individuals	F	10	H-Jud
Health Care	HB	1065	Income Tax Credit For Home Health Care	S	10	H-HIE
Health Care	HB	1097	PUC Permit For Medicaid Transportation Providers	S	11	H-TE
Health Care	HB	1102	Drug Production Costs Transparency Requirements	S	11	H-HIE
Health Care	HB	1142	Rural & Frontier Health Care Preceptor Tax Credit	S	11	H-PHCHS
Income Assistance	SB	22	Child Care Assistance Cliff Effect Pilot Program	S	12	S-2nd Rdg
Income Assistance	HB	1050	Low-income Parents Ed Child Care	S	12	H-PHCHS
Justice System	SB	64	Death Penalty Jury Decision	O	7	S-Jud
Justice System	HB	1033	Travel Costs & Members Human Trafficking Council	S	8	H-HIE
Natural Resources	SJM	1	Good Samaritan Remediation Abandoned Mines	S	8	S-Ag
Natural Resources	HB	1004	Measureable Goals Deadlines CO Climate Action Plan	S	8	H-HIE
Reproductive Freedom	HB	1007	Offenses Against Unborn Children	O	12	H-BAL
Reproductive Freedom	HB	1113	Protect Human Life At Conception	O	12	H-HIE
Voting Rights	HB	1111	Same Day Voter Registration With Photo ID	O	8	H-SVM
Water	HB	1005	Residential Precipitation Collection	S	8	H-Ag

The Legislative Letter is written by the members of the Legislative Action Committee, edited by Frank Bennett and Chris Watson, and published by the Colorado League of Women Voters every two weeks during the Legislative Session. To subscribe, please contact the League Office at info@lwvcolorado.org or 303-863-0437 for information about rates and delivery.