

LEGISLATIVE LETTER®
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO
1410 Grant St., B-204, Denver, CO, 80203
303.863.0437
e-mail: info@lwvcolorado.org
www.lwvcolorado.org



January 22, 2018

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, 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) (3) 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 2018

Voter Protection and mobilization
Campaign finance
Sustainability

Issues on the Advocacy Agenda will take priority in League's 2018 work in the legislature and in education activities across Colorado. Making democracy work includes such things as protecting access to the ballot, redistricting, and possibly addressing such things as the Electoral College and alternative voting methods. 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. Events throughout the country remind us that the civil rights of all our citizens must always be supported and protected. Our state's long term stability depends on adequately funded education. These priorities shape our decisions about using resources, but do not limit the scope of legislative advocacy.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

President	Toni Larson	303.249.2064
Legislative Action Chair	Jeannette Hillery	303.494.7718
Legislative Liaison	Andrea Wilkins	303.521.1759
Office Administrator	Beth Sale	303.863.0437

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP IN 2018

SENATE

President of the Senate	Kevin Grantham
President Pro-Tem	Jerry Sonnenberg
Majority Leader	Chris Holbert
Asst. Majority Leader	Ray Scott
Majority Caucus Chair	Vicki Marble
Majority Whip	John Cooke
Minority Leader	Lucia Guzman
Asst. Minority Leader	Leroy Garcia
Minority Caucus Chair	Lois Court
Minority Whip	Michael Merrifield

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker of the House	Crisanta Duran
Speaker Pro-Tem	Jessie Danielson
Majority Leader	KC Becker
Asst. Majority Leader	Alec Garnett
Majority Caucus Chair	Daneya Esgar
Majority Whip	Brittany Pettersen
Minority Leader	Patrick Neville
Asst. Minority Leader	Cole Wist
Minority Caucus Chair	Lori Saine
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	303-866-3341
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:

<http://leg.colorado.gov/>

View House or Senate Floor action on
Comcast Channel 165 or at

<http://leg.colorado.gov/watch-listen>

2018 HOUSE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, & NATURAL RESOURCES

Representatives Arndt, (Chair); Esgar (Vice-Chair); Becker, J., Buck, Catlin, Danielson, Hansen, Jackson, Lewis, McKean, Roberts, Saine, Valdez.

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., Beckman, Danielson, Everett, Garnett, Hansen, Kraft-Tharp, Neville, Pabon, Rankin, Winter.

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

BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND LABOR

Representatives: Kraft-Tharp (Chair); Winter (Vice-Chair); Arndt, Coleman, Garnett, Gray, Liston, Rosenthal, Sias, Thurlow, Van Winkle, Williams, D.

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

EDUCATION

Representatives Pettersen (Chair); Buckner (Vice-Chair); Bridges, Everett, Exum, Garnett, Lee, Leonard, Lundeen, McLachlan, Reyher, Sias, Wilson.

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

FINANCE

Representatives Pabon (Chair); Foote (Vice-Chair); Beckman, Benavidez, Covarrubias, Gray, Herod, Kennedy, Lawrence, Michaelson Jenet, Thurlow, Van Winkle.

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

HEALTH, INSURANCE & ENVIRONMENT

Representatives Ginal (Chair); Esgar (Vice-Chair); Beckman, Buckner, Covarrubias, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Langraf, Lontine, Ransom, Roberts, Wilson.

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

JUDICIARY

Representatives Lee (Chair); Salazar (Vice-Chair); Benavidez, Carver, Foote, Herod, Lundeen, Melton, Weissman, Willett, Wist.

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Representatives: Singer (Chair); Exum (Vice-Chair); Coleman, Gray, Lebsock, Liston, McKean, Ransom, Reyher, Rosenthal, Thurlow, Valdez, Wilson.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH CARE & HUMAN SERVICES

Representatives Singer (Chair); Danielson (Vice-Chair); Beckman, Catlin, Everett, Ginal, Hooton, Landgraf, McKean, Michaelson Jenet, Pabon, Pettersen, Ransom.

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

STATE, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Representatives Foote (Chair); Lontine (Vice-Chair); Benavidez, Hooton, Humphrey, Leonard, Melton, Weissman, Williams, D.

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

TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY

Representatives Winter (Chair); McLachlan (Vice-Chair); Becker, J., Bridges, Buck, Carver, Esgar, Ginal, Hansen, Jackson, Lawrence, Lewis, Roberts.

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

2018 SENATE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

Senators Sonnenberg (Chair); Baumgardner (Vice-Chair);
Cooke, Coram, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Jones, Marble, Scott.

Staff: David Beaujon
Wed., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 357)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 357)

APPROPRIATIONS

Senators Lundberg (Chair); Lambert (Vice-Chair); Garcia, Gardner, Kerr,
Moreno, Sonnenberg.

Staff: Scott Thompson
Tues. 8:30 AM (Rm. 357)
Other times as announced.

BUSINESS, LABOR, & TECHNOLOGY

Senators Tate (Chair); Neville, T. (Vice-Chair); Jahn, Kerr, Priola,
Smallwood, Williams, A.

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); Priola (Vice-Chair); Gardner, Merrifield, Neville,
T., Todd, Zenzinger.

Staff: Rachel Kurtz-Phelan
Wed., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 352)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 352)

FINANCE

Senators Neville, T. (Chair); Smallwood (Vice-Chair); Court, Jahn, Tate.

Staff: Matt Becker
Tues., 2:00-6:00 (Rm. 357)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 357)

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Senators Smallwood (Chair); Martinez Humenik (Vice-Chair); Aguilar,
Crowder, Kefalas.

Staff: Elizabeth Haskell
Wed., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 354)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 354)

JUDICIARY

Senators Gardner (Chair); Cooke (Vice-Chair); Coram, Fields, Kagan.

Staff: Juliann Jenson
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 352)
Tues. Adj.-Noon (Rm. 352)
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 352)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Senators Martinez Humenik (Chair); Gardner (Vice-Chair); Crowder,
Donovan, Kefalas.

Staff: Vanessa Reilly
Tues., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 354)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 354)

STATE, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senators Marble (Chair); Sonnenberg (Vice-Chair); Court, Fenberg, Hill.

Staff: Julia Jackson
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 357)
Tues. Adj.-Noon (Rm. 357)
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 357)

TRANSPORTATION

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

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

DEADLINE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2018 COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- January 10 **General Assembly convenes.**
- January 26 Final deadline for introduction of **Senate** bills, except supplemental bills recommended by the Joint Budget Committee.
- January 31 Final deadline for introduction of **House** bills, except the Long Bill and supplemental bills recommended by the Joint Budget Committee.
- February 5 Final deadline for introduction of supplemental bills recommended by the Joint Budget Committee.
- February 8 Deadline for **House** committees of reference to report House bills introduced on or before the 7th legislative day.
- February 15 Deadline for **Senate** committees of reference to report **Senate** bills.
- February 22 Deadline for **House** committees of reference to report remaining **House** bills.
- February 28 Deadline for final passage of **Senate** bills in the **Senate**.*
Deadline for final passage of **House** bills in the **House**.*
- March 23 Deadline for committees of reference to report bills originating in the other house.
- March 26 Deadline for introduction of the **Long Bill** in the **House**.
- March 31 Deadline for final passage of the **Long Bill** in the **House**.
- April 2 Deadline for final passage in the **Senate** of **House** bills.*
- April 6 Deadline for final passage of the **Long Bill** in the **Senate**.
- April 9 Deadline for final passage in the **House** of all **Senate** bills.*
- April 13 Deadline for adoption of the conference committee report on the **Long Bill**.
Deadline for Appropriations Committee in house of introduction to report referred bills.
- April 20 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 26 Deadline for committees of reference in second house to report bills referred to the Appropriations Committee in that house.
- April 30 Deadline for Appropriations Committee in second house to report bills referred to it.
- May 3 Deadline for final passage in second house of all bills referred its Appropriations Committee.
- May 9 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 20.

GOVERNMENT

ELECTIONS

TIME OFF TO VOTE

NEW **HB 1033 Employee Leave to Participate in Elections (Rep. Weismann; none) (support)** will be heard in House State Affairs on January 31. Currently an employee may take leave for a period of time to vote on Election Day. This bill would allow the employee to vote, register, obtain a ballot or replacement ballot or obtain documents or ID necessary to vote or register. This bill would allow an employee to take leave any day polling locations are open for a **general, primary or coordinated election**. For **other elections**, leave could be taken any day during the eight days prior to and on the day of the election. The employer, however, may deny the request if the employee is not scheduled to be working for three consecutive hours during the time period that the polling locations are available.

SPREAD OUT ELECTIONS

NEW **HB 1039 Change Date of Regular Special District Elections (Rep. Ransom and Coleman; Sen. Gardner) (support)** Special district elections are currently held on the Tuesday immediately succeeding the first Monday in May of **even-numbered** years. This bill would change regular special district elections to May of **odd-numbered** years starting in 2023. Directors who are elected in 2020 and 2022 would serve 3-year terms rather than 4-year terms in order to implement the new schedule. In addition, the bill would amend the “Rail District Act of 1982” in order to conform to the same schedule. The bill would reduce the number of elections held in even numbered years. The bill is scheduled to be heard in House State Affairs on January 31st.

Both reported by Carol Tone 303.884.8429 and Celeste Landry 303.440.4395

GUN SAFETY

MORE GUNS IN SCHOOLS

NEW The LWV has long had positions supporting gun safety regulations. Currently, only security officers are allowed to carry guns onto the grounds of any public school. **HB 1037 Concealed Handguns on School Grounds (Rep. P. Neville; Sen. T. Neville) (oppose)** would remove the current limitation on individuals with a valid concealed handgun permit having a loaded, concealed gun in a public school.

In the interest of the safety and well-being of students and staffs of our schools, we are strongly opposed to this bill. Besides the possibility of accidents, the recent shooting in Las Vegas points out the difficulty for law enforcement in having private individuals pulling out guns in a situation with an active shooter. The police were hampered in finding the actual shooter, because they could not tell who was the perpetrator and who was a “helper” with a drawn gun. Guns do not belong in schools on anyone other than a uniformed, well trained law enforcement officer. The bill has been assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs.

Sally Augden 303.455.5800

JUSTICE SYSTEM

REDUCE MANDATORY PAROLE FROM 5 TO 3 YEARS

NEW **HB 1029 Lowering Mandatory Parole From 5 Years To 3 Years (Rep. Weissman; Sen. Lundberg) (support)** This bill lowers the length of mandatory parole for a class 2 and class 3 felony to three years. Under current law, offenders are sentenced to a mandatory period of parole solely based on the class of felony. For example, offenders sentenced for a lower-level felony (class 6) are sentenced to one year of parole, while offenders sentenced for more serious offenses (class 2 or class 3) are sentenced for at least five years.

Lowering the mandatory parole from five to three years will reduce parole caseload resulting in a cost savings beginning in 2027. The fiscal note assumes

NATURAL RESOURCES

ENERGY

REPEAL INCENTIVES FOR CLEAN VEHICLES

NEW SB 47 Repeal Tax Credits Innovative Vehicles (Sen. Marble; Rep. Saine) (oppose) The bill repeals the income tax credits for innovative motor vehicles and innovative trucks (hybrid or electric cars and trucks) for purchase and leases entered into on or after January 1, 2019. The increased revenue created by the repeal of the tax credit would be credited to the highway users' tax fund.

League supported the original 2016 incentive bill, which passed with bipartisan support. The goal of that law is to reduce fossil fuel emissions from vehicles. Eliminating the incentives discourages drivers from considering the impacts of a clean energy choice for their vehicles. This bill is contrary to the League's position of supporting measures to reduce vehicular pollution and development of more energy-efficient transportation systems.

The bill is scheduled for hearing on Feb. 6 in the Senate Finance Committee.

Amy Sherwood 847.239.0236

100% RENEWABLES BY 2035

NEW SB 64 Requires 100% Renewable Energy By 2035 (Sen. Jones; Rep. Foote) (support) The bill updates the renewable energy standard to require that all electric utilities, including cooperative electric associations and municipally owned utilities, derive their energy from 100% renewable energy by 2035. The bill also:

- Removes recycled energy from the types of energy sources eligible for meeting the renewable energy standard;
- Allows a utility to obtain energy efficiency credits equal in value to renewable energy credits based on any energy efficiency upgrades made for a low-income residential customer;

the bill will reduce parole costs by \$2.3 million in FY 2027-28, \$5.1 million in FY 2029-30, and \$9.0 million in FY 2036-37.

The Criminal Justice System Interim Study Committee recommended this bill. It was assigned to the House Judiciary Committee and will be heard on January 25th.

Lucinda Schneller 720.254.5741

JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE COMPETENCY BILL INTRODUCED

NEW HB 1050 Competency to Proceed Juvenile Justice System (Rep. Singer; Sen. Fields)

(support) creates a juvenile-specific definition of competency to proceed in the Colorado Children's Code for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Under current law, a youth cannot use the "not guilty by reason of insanity" defense but can be found to be incompetent to proceed. However, the Children's Code does not have a juvenile-specific definition of competency to proceed. It simply refers to the adult definition in the criminal code. This does not take into account the understanding of the differences between adults and children. In addition to defining "competency to proceed," the bill also creates definitions for "developmental disability," "mental disability," and "mental capacity." It also clarifies the procedures for establishing incompetency as well as restoration of competency. A similar bill introduced in the 2015 session failed because of significant opposition from the District Attorneys.

The definitions in this bill are similar to definitions in the adult statute except for the definition of "mental capacity" which concerns the ability of the youth to understand the court process. That is an important addition.

This bill has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee.

Carla Bennett 303.757.2930

- Removes multipliers used for counting certain renewable energy generated; and
- Phases out the system of tradable renewable energy credits so that renewable energy generated after 2035 is not eligible for renewable energy credits.

League supports energy goals and policies that acknowledge the U.S. as a responsible member of the world community. To protect the environment and human health, it supports the reduction of energy growth rates by transitioning to renewable energy sources predominantly and using energy efficient technologies. In addition, League supports assistance for low income citizens when energy policies bear unduly on the poor.

This bill will be heard on February 1 in the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources and Energy Committee.

Amy Sherwood 847.239.0236

ALLOW USE OF BATTERIES FOR HOME ELECTRICITY

NEW **SB 9 Allow Electric Utility Customers Install Energy Storage Equipment (Sens. Fenberg & Priola, Cooke, Guzman and, Lundberg; None) (support)** The bill allows residential consumers of electricity to install, interconnect, and use storage systems with the belief that this will enhance reliability and efficiency of the electric grid, save money, and reduce the need for more generation facilities. The bill directs the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules governing the installation, interconnection, and use of customer-sited distributed electricity storage systems.

This bill paves the way for customer choice. The bill fosters resiliency, reliability and efficiency when there are threats to the electrical supply through malfunctions, malicious interference or weather. The League supports the predominance of renewable resources. It supports the use of a variety of energy sources with emphasis on conserving energy and using energy efficient technologies. This bill creates the opportunity for use of solar, wind or any other clean energy source in reducing dangerous carbon pollutants in the air.

The bill will be heard on January 25 in the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources and Energy Committee.

Amy Sherwood 847.239.0236

SOCIAL POLICY

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

COMBATING SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Resulting from the efforts of a bipartisan interim committee, behavioral health bills to combat the serious health problem of opioid addiction, overdoses, and deaths are being introduced in both the House and the Senate with bipartisan support.

NEW **HB 1003 Opioid Misuse Prevention (Rep. Pettersen; Sens. Jahn, Priola) (support)** The bill establishes a continuing study committee with extensive tasks, including: to look at the scope of the substance abuse disorder problem in Colorado; to review current prevention, treatment and recovery resources available; to review medication-assisted treatment and pharmacist ability to prescribe these medications; to examine measures taken by other states and countries; to identify service gaps; and to identify legislative options. The bill further provides for grants that school-based health centers may apply for and directs the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to award grants to provide substance abuse screening, intervention, and referral. The bill addresses continuing medical education activities for prescribers of chronic pain medications. The General Assembly is directed to appropriate funds for the described activities.

League supports this bill as it improves access and treatment for this serious healthcare need.

The bill was assigned to the House Public Health Care & Human Services Committee.

NEW **HB 1007 Substance Abuse Disorder & Payment Coverage (Reps. Singer & Kennedy; Sens. Jahn & Lambert) (support)** The bill requires insurance carrier payment parameters that facilitate care for substance abuse patients,

including: coverage by individual and group health benefit plans, without prior authorization, of a 5-day supply of buprenorphine, used to treat opioid addiction; coverage for substance abuse healthcare with no less favorable terms regarding deductibles and copayments than chronic pain coverage; prohibition of carrier requirement of step therapy protocol.

League supports this bill as it improves access and treatment for this serious healthcare need.

The bill was assigned to the House Public Health Care & Human Services Committee.

NEW SB 022 Clinical Practice for Opioid Prescribing (Sens. Aguilar & Tate; Reps. Kennedy & Pettersen) (watch) The bill restricts the number of opioid pills that a health care practitioner may prescribe for an initial prescription to a 7-day supply and one refill, with some exceptions. The bill requires the Department of Public Health and Environment to report to the General Assembly study results regarding the prescription drug monitoring program and health care provider report cards.

League is watching this bill which may serve to enhance consumer health and safety through additional monitoring and parameters around opioid prescriptions.

Assigned to the Health and Human Services Committee where it will be heard February 1.

NEW SB 024 Expand Access to Behavioral Healthcare Providers (Sens. Jahn & Tate; Rep. Singer) (support) The bill modifies the Colorado Health Service Corps program administered by the Department of Public Health and Environment. The bill allows behavioral health care providers, including addiction counselors, social workers, family therapists, clinical psychologists, advanced practice nurses, and physicians to participate in loan repayment program in exchange for practicing in health professional shortage areas for a period of time. The bill requires an appropriation of \$2.5 million from the marijuana tax cash fund to provide loan repayment for behavioral health care providers and candidates for licensure participating in the Colorado Health Service Corps and to award

scholarships to addiction counselors participating in the scholarship program.

League supports this bill which enhances consumer access to behavioral health care providers, particularly in health professional shortage areas and for underserved populations.

This bill is scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on January 25.

All reported by Carol Pace 303.863.0437

CHILDREN'S ISSUES

CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND EXPANSION PROPOSED

NEW HB 1044 Children's Trust Fund Act (Rep. Kraft-Tharp; Sen. Priola) (support) expands the Children's Trust Fund Act, placing a greater priority on preventing child maltreatment fatalities and continuing to prevent child maltreatment including reducing prenatal drug exposure and drug endangerment and other adverse childhood experiences.

The bill increases the number of board members from 9 to 21 in order to bring more perspectives to the board. It also expands the duties and powers of the board. The board is directed to:

- Develop strategies and monitor efforts to decrease incidences of child maltreatment, child maltreatment fatalities, and other adverse childhood experiences
- To advise and make recommendations to the governor, state agencies, and other entities concerning child maltreatment prevention
- Monitor and implement the ongoing development and implementation of programs and factors that affect work in the area of child maltreatment.

In addition, the bill also allows the grants from the Colorado Children's Trust Fund to be used for programs working to reduce the incidence of child maltreatment fatalities, child maltreatment, and other adverse childhood experiences.

This bill increases the relevance of the Children's Trust Fund by expanding the powers and duties of the board and by expanding the types of programs the trust fund can support. It is scheduled for a hearing before the House Public Health Care & Human Services Committee on January 23.

Carla Bennett 303.757.2930

EDUCATION

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN FUNDING AT ISSUE

Colorado funds kindergarten at a per-pupil rate only slightly over half a student. To offer full-day kindergarten (in this day when test scores matter and the more time in a classroom makes a difference in test scores), districts have to make choices. Either they don't offer full time, they charge families for the other half day, or they have full time, but absorb the costs through cuts to other programs. Many efforts to increase the funding have been made, but the state's tax restrictions continue to limit our options. Two bills this year attempt to create the funding over time, but in slightly different ways. **NEW SB 4 Funding for Full-day Kindergarten (Sens. Kerr; None) (support)** would require a ballot question for citizens to "authorize the state to retain and spend for preschool through 12th grade public education any state revenues above the excess state revenues cap approved by the voters in 2005." This bill is set for a hearing before the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on January 31.

The second bill, **NEW HB 1088 Funding for Full-day Kindergarten (Reps. J Wilson, McLachlan) (support)** uses the same graduated process as SB 4, increasing the funding over a five-year period until all students are fully funded. Funding in this bill is not subject to voter approval but instead increases annually the appropriation used by districts to provide full-day kindergarten. It has been assigned to House Education and Appropriations Committees.

The League's positions on education support adequate and equitable funding for public schools, preschool through 12th grade. Large districts have more leeway in their budgets to absorb the costs of

providing full-day kindergarten to all children. The adequacy requirement is certainly not met, nor is the equitable requirement. We recognize that there are many needs in this state not being met at this time, but the education of our children is critical.

Sally Augden 303.455.5800

HIGHER EDUCATION

ADDRESSING TEACHER SHORTAGES IN RURAL AREAS

For the bills mentioned below, the recommendation to support is based on the League's position and belief that all qualified students should have an opportunity to attend postsecondary education and that successful participation should be facilitated by a variety of resources.

NEW SB 085 Financial Incentives For Education in Rural Areas (Reps. Todd, Coram, Merrifield, Zenzinger; Senator McLachlan) (Support) Current law allows the department of higher education to provide up to 20 financial stipends, \$6,000 each, annually to teachers in rural school districts who are seeking certain certifications or additional professional development through continuing education who commit to employment in a rural school for a minimum of three years. This bill increases the number of stipends to 60 and expands the teachers who are eligible for stipends. It now includes teachers completing an approved alternative licensure program with an expectation for full-time employment in a rural school district or board of cooperative services.

The bill was introduced in the Senate on January 16 and assigned to the Education Committee.

NEW HB 1002 Rural School District Teaching Fellowship Programs (Reps. Hamner & Rankin; Sens. Todd & Coram) (Support) This bill directs the department of education to identify geographic areas within the state and specify areas where there is a teacher shortage. The bill allows a rural school district and a public or private institution to enter into an agreement to provide a teaching fellowship program for students enrolled in the fourth year of their teacher education program. The school district

must be within an identified area of need, have specific subject matter needs (math, reading, etc.) and must show chronic hiring difficulties and financial needs.

One hundred teaching fellows will be selected, each receiving \$10,000 for costs of attending the fellowship year. The state will pay 50% and the institution must pay 50% from financial assistance.

There is a strong accountability component to this program with the submission of annual reports of participating institutions and school districts to the State Board of Education, Colorado Commission on Higher Education, Joint Budget Committee, and education committees of the General Assembly.

The bill was introduced on January 10 in the House and assigned to the House Education Committee.

Barbara Whinery 970.353.6731

HEALTH CARE

CONTROL DRUG PRICES

NEW **HB 1009 Diabetes Drug Pricing Transparency Act 2018 (Rep. Roberts; Sen. Donovan) (support)** The bill requires that drug manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers submit annual reports to the state health board regarding diabetes drug price increases of certain percentages. The state board produces a report and may impose penalties on drug manufacturers or pharmacy benefit managers who do not comply with reporting. Non-profit organizations receiving

contributions from drug manufacturers for advocacy or research must report those contributions.

League supports transparency for consumers in health care pricing. The bill was assigned to the House Health Insurance & Environment Committee.

NEW **SB 80 Wholesale Canadian Drug Importation Program (Sen. Aguilar; Rep. Lontine) (support)** The bill requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to design a program to import prescription drugs from Canada for sale to Colorado consumers. The program must ensure drug safety and cost savings. HCPF must submit a program design to federal Department of Health and Human Services requesting approval of the program as meeting federal law. The department must adopt a funding mechanism to cover administrative costs and annually report on the program to the general assembly.

League supports this bill which enhances consumer access to pharmaceuticals through price competition.

The bill was assigned to The Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee where it will be heard 1/31/18.

Both reported by Carol Pace 303.863.0437

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
Behavioral Health	SB	22	Clinical Practice For Opioid Prescribing	W	10	S-HHS
Behavioral Health	SB	24	Expand Access Behavioral Health Care Providers	S	10	S-HHS
Behavioral Health	HB	1003	Opioid Misuse Prevention	S	9	H-PHC
Behavioral Health	HB	1007	Substance Use Disorder Payment & Coverage	S	9	H-PHC
Children's Issues	HB	1044	Colorado Children's Trust Fund Act	S	10	H-PHC
Education	SB	4	Funding For Full-day Kindergarten	S	11	S-SA
Education	HB	1088	Funding For Full-day Kindergarten	S	11	H-ED
Elections	HB	1033	Employee Leave To Participate In Elections	S	7	H-SVM
Elections	HB	1039	Change Date Of Regular Special District Elections	S	7	H-SA

Energy	SB	9	Allow Elec Util Cust Install Energy Storage Equip	S	9	S-AGR
Energy	SB	47	Repeal Tax Credits Innovative Vehicles	O	8	S-Fin
Energy	SB	64	Require 100% Renewable Energy By 2035	S	8	S-AGR
Gun Safety	HB	1037	Concealed Handguns On School Grounds	O	7	H-SA
Health Care	SB	80	Wholesale Canadian Drug Importation Program	S	12	S-SA
Health Care	HB	1009	Diabetes Drug Pricing Transparency Act 2018	S	12	H-HIE
Higher Ed	SB	85	Financial Incentives For Education In Rural Areas	S	11	S-ED
Higher Ed	HB	1002	Rural School District Teaching Fellowship Programs	S	11	H-ED
Justice System	HB	1029	Lowering Mandatory Parole From 5 Years To 3 Years	S	7	H-JUD
Juvenile Justice	HB	1050	Competency to Proceed Juvenile Justice System	S	8	H-JUD

The Legislative Letter is written by the members of the Legislative Action Committee, edited by Frank Bennett and Andrea Wilkins, 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.