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LEGISLATIVE LETTER[©]

January 14, 2019

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 20 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
San Luis Valley

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

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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 2019

Voting Rights
Improving Elections
Money in Politics

Issues on the Advocacy Agenda will take priority in League's 2019 work in the legislature and in education activities across Colorado. Making democracy work includes such things as protecting access to the ballot, registering as many citizens as possible, and addressing the Electoral College. Eliminating or reducing the influence of money in politics will significantly improve our elections. Other priority areas that LWVCO may address in the coming session include: Tabor and Gallagher revisions, immigration, health care, gun safety, environmental quality, school finance, and transportation.

To join the League, contact the League office at 303-863-0437.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

President	Toni Larson	303.249.2064
Executive Director	Beth Hendrix	303.863.0437
Legislative Action Chair	Leslie Chomic	303.246.3644
Legislative Liaison	Andrea Wilkins	303.521.1759
Office Administrator	Beth Sale	303.863.0437

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP IN 2019

SENATE

President of the Senate	Leroy Garcia
President Pro-Tem	<u>Lois Court</u>
Majority Leader	Stephen Fenberg
Asst. Majority Leader	Rhonda Fields
Majority Caucus Chair	Kerry Donovan
Minority Leader	Chris Holbert
Asst. Minority Leader	John Cooke
Minority Caucus Chair	Vicki Marble
Minority Whip	Ray Scott

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Speaker Pro-Tem	Janet Buckner
Majority Leader	Alec Garnett
Asst. Majority Leader	Chris Kennedy
Majority Caucus Chair	Edie Hooton
Majority Co-Whip	James Coleman
Minority Leader	Patrick Neville
Minority Caucus Chair	Lori Saine
Minority Whip	Perry Buck

CAPITAL DIRECTORY

Information Center/Bill Room	303.866.3055
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Joint Budget Committee	303.866.2061
Legislative Council	303.866. 3521
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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>

2019 HOUSE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

APPROPRIATIONS

Representatives Hansen (Chair); Esgar (Vice-Chair); Bird, Bockenfeld, Coleman, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, McCluskie, Pelton, Rankin, Rich

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

BUSINESS AFFAIRS & LABOR

Representatives: Kraft-Tharp (Chair); Coleman (Vice-Chair); Arndt, Bird, Duran, McKean, Sandridge, Snyder, Sullivan, Van Winkle, Williams, D.

Staff: Luisa Altmann
Tues., Adj.-Noon (LSB-A)
Wednesday All Day (LSB-A)

EDUCATION

Representatives McLachlan (Chair); Buentello (Vice-Chair); Baisley, Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Exum, Geitner, Larson, McCluskie, Michaelson Jenet, Ransom, Wilson

Staff: Meghan MacKillop
Tues., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0107)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0107)

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Representatives: Jackson (Chair); Hooton (Vice-Chair); Bridges, Geitner, Ginal, Landgraf, Liston, Saine, Sirota, Valdez, A., Weissman

Andrea Denka
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0112)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0112)

FINANCE

Representatives Herod (Chair); Tipper (Vice-Chair); Beckman, Benavidez, Bird, Bockenfeld, Gray, Rich, Sandridge, Snyder, Sullivan

Staff: Vanessa Reilly
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (LSB-A)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (LSB-A)

HEALTH & INSURANCE

Representatives Lontine (Chair); Caraveo (Vice-Chair); Baisley, Beckman, Buckner, Catlin, Ginal, Jackson, Mullica, Soper, Titone

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

JUDICIARY

Representatives Weissman (Chair); Herod (Vice-Chair); Benavidez, Bockenfeld, Carver, Galindo, Gonzales-Gutierrez, McKean, Roberts, Soper, Tipper

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

PUBLIC HEALTH CARE & HUMAN SERVICES

Representatives Singer (Chair); Michaelson Jenet (Vice-Chair); Caraveo, Cutter, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Jaquez Lewis, Landgraf, Larson, Liston, Mullica, Pelton

Staff: Anne Wallace
Wed., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0107)
Fri., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0107)

RURAL AFFAIRS & AGRICULTURE

Representatives: Roberts (Chair); Valdez, D. (Vice-Chair); Arndt, Buentello, Buck, Catlin, Lewis, McCluskie, McLachlan, Pelton, Titone

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

STATE, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Representatives Kennedy (Chair); Jaquez Lewis (Vice-Chair); Duran, Humphrey, Lontine, Melton, Rich, Sirota, Williams, D.

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

TRANSPORTATION & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Representatives: Gray (Chair); Exum (Vice-Chair); Bridges, Carver, Galindo, Hooton, Humphrey, Lewis, Ransom, Valdez, A., Valdez, D.

Staff: April Bernard
Tues., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0112)
Wednesday, All Day (Rm. 0112)

2019 SENATE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Senators Donovan (Chair); Danielson (Vice-Chair); Coram, Kefalas, Sonnenberg

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

APPROPRIATIONS

Senators Zenzinger (Chair); Moreno (Vice-Chair); Foote, Gardner, Gonzales, Hisey, Rodriguez, Sonnenberg, Todd, Woodward

Staff: Tom Dermody
Fri. 7:30 (Rm. 357)
Other times as announced.

BUSINESS, LABOR, & TECHNOLOGY

Senators Williams, A. (Chair); Danielson (Vice-Chair); Priola, Story, 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 Todd (Chair); Story (Vice-Chair); Hill, Kagan, Lundeen

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

FINANCE

Senators Court (Chair); Lee (Vice-Chair); Gonzales, Lundeen, Tate, Todd, Woodward

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

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Senators Fields (Chair); Pettersen (Vice-Chair); Crowder, Smallwood, Winter

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

JUDICIARY

Senators Lee (Chair); Gonzales (Vice-Chair); Cooke, Gardner, Rodriguez.

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 Ginal (Chair); Williams, A. (Vice-Chair); Coram, Crowder, Kagan

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

STATE, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senators Foote (Chair); Court (Vice-Chair); Fields, Marble, Sonnenberg

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

TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY

Senators Winter (Chair); Pettersen (Vice-Chair); Cooke, Donovan, Foote, Priola, Scott

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

DEADLINE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2019 COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- January 4 **General Assembly convenes.**
- January 22 Final deadline for introduction of **Senate** bills, except supplemental bills recommended by the Joint Budget Committee.
- January 25 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 1 Deadline for **House** committees of reference to report House bills introduced on or before the 8th legislative day.
- February 8 Deadline for **Senate** committees of reference to report **Senate** bills.
- February 15 Deadline for **House** committees of reference to report remaining **House** bills.
- February 22 Deadline for final passage of **Senate** bills in the **Senate**.*
Deadline for final passage of **House** bills in the **House**.*
- March 15 Deadline for committees of reference to report bills originating in the other house.
- March 25 Deadline for introduction of the **Long Bill** in the **Senate**.
- March 27 Deadline for final passage of **Senate** bills in the **House**.*
- March 29 Deadline for final passage of the **Long Bill** in the **Senate**.
- April 3 Deadline for final passage in the **Senate** of **House** bills.*
- April 5 Deadline for final passage of the **Long Bill** in the **House**.
- April 12 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 15 Deadline for final passage in house of introduction of all bills referred to the Appropriations Committee in that house.
- April 19 Deadline for committees of reference in second house to report bills referred to the Appropriations Committee in that house.
- April 22 Deadline for final passage for any school finance bills.
- April 24 Deadline for Appropriations Committee in second house to report bills referred to it.
- April 26 Deadline for final passage in second house of all bills referred its Appropriations Committee.
- May 3 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 26.

GOVERNMENT

ELECTIONS

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE AGREEMENT

NEW **SB 42 National Popular Vote (Sen. Foote; Reps. Sirota & Arndt) (support)** This bill enters Colorado into the National Popular Vote Agreement to elect the president by popular vote.

States that enact the National Popular Vote Agreement will award all their electors to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in the fifty states and the District of Columbia. This agreement will take effect only when enacted, in identical form, by enough states to have a majority of the electoral votes (270 are needed for a majority). In this way, the person with the most votes is guaranteed to have the electoral votes needed to win the presidency.

The League of Women Voters has long held the position that the direct popular-vote method for electing the president is essential to a representative government. The League reached that conclusion in 1970 and in 2010 revised its position to support the use of a National Popular Vote (Interstate) Compact as one way to achieve the goal. The National Popular Vote Compact, or National Popular Vote Agreement, is a method to achieve the direct election of the President of the United States without the passage of a Constitutional amendment.

Under the U.S. Constitution, states have exclusive power to allocate their electoral votes and may change their state laws concerning the awarding of their electoral votes at any time. Today, all states except for Maine (ME) and Nebraska (NE) award their electors by a winner-take-all system in which all of a given state's electors are awarded to the winner of that state's popular vote.

There are three primary reasons for adopting a popular vote system to elect the president as follows. First, in the current system, general campaigns ignore voters in bystander states (states where the outcome is relatively certain) while

heaping attention on voters in swing states. Second, voter turnout in bystander states (45%) is significantly lower than voter turnout in swing states (60%). Finally, the person with the most votes should win, and every vote should count equally. A system in which candidates with fewer popular votes become president can lead to cynicism.

To date, the National Popular Vote Agreement has been adopted by 11 states and the District of Columbia, amounting to 172 electoral votes of the 270 electoral votes needed to activate the agreement. Colorado has 9 electoral votes to help this effort.

This is not the first time that Colorado legislators have considered the National Popular Vote Agreement. In 2006, Colorado's Senate was the first state legislative house in the nation to pass National Popular Vote's legislation for nationwide election of the president (SB 06-223). In January 2007, the Colorado State Senate once again approved the National Popular Vote bill (SB07-46). On March 17, 2009, the Colorado House of Representatives passed the National Popular Vote bill (HB09-1299). In 2017, the bill was introduced into the Senate (SB 17-99), but did not get out of committee. The bill has never passed both chambers of the Colorado Assembly in the same legislative session; therefore, Colorado has not joined the compact to date. Similar legislation is pending in other states.

This bill has been assigned to the Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs committee. It is scheduled for hearing on Wednesday, Jan 23.

Linda Sorauf 720.593.8678

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

NEW **HB 1007 Contribution Limits For County Offices (Rep. Sirota; None) (support)** This bill establishes campaign contribution limits and disclosure requirements for candidates for county offices. The bill defines "county office" to mean a county commissioner, county clerk and recorder, sheriff, coroner, treasurer, assessor, and surveyor.

The maximum contribution that a candidate or candidate committee for a county office will be able to accept for either the primary or general election is as follows:

- \$1,250 from any person;
- \$12,500 from a small donor committee; and
- \$22,125 from a political party.

These contribution limits must be adjusted for inflation every four years by the Department of State.

The bill will be heard in the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on January 15.

Peggy Leech 303.666.4720

JUSTICE SYSTEM

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

NEW **SB 8 Substance Use Disorder Treatment In Crim Jus Sys (Sens. Priola & Pettersen; Reps. Kennedy & Singer) (support)** This wide-ranging bill requires the CO Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCCJJ) to study alternatives to filing of criminal charges against persons with substance use disorders. The commission would also be directed to seek best practices for investigating opioid distribution and to develop a process for sealing criminal records for drug-related offenses. It requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to allow access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for persons receiving MAT in a local jail prior to placement in DOC. It allows DOC to enter into agreements with relevant treatment agencies and organizations in developing and administering MAT. The bill requires that the response from the criminal justice, prevention, and treatment sectors to persons with use disorder problems be shifted to treatment alternatives rather than continued criminal justice involvement. DOC will be required to seek federal authorization and financial participation for MAT. The bill simplifies the process for sealing certain criminal convictions.

The LWV supports problem solving in the judicial system to provide needed treatment and avoid

inappropriate entry into the criminal justice system, particularly for drug offenses. In addition, the LWV supports effective re-entry planning for people released from the criminal justice system.

The Criminal Justice System Interim Study Committee recommended this bill. It has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Kimberly Grogan 303.919.0822

CRIMINAL HISTORIES ON APPLICATIONS

NEW **HB 1025 Limits On Job Applicant Criminal History Inquiries (Reps. Melton & Herod; none) (support)** Previous involvement with the criminal justice system often creates significant barriers to employment. This bill seeks to reduce those barriers by prohibiting employers from stating that persons with a criminal history may not apply for a position in any advertisement or on any form of application (including electronic forms) for that position. Furthermore, an employer may not inquire into or require disclosure of an applicant's criminal history on an initial application.

Exceptions apply in the following cases: (1) when a law or regulation prohibits employing someone with a specific criminal history; (2) when the position is part of a program to encourage employment of persons with a criminal history, or; (3) when a law or regulation requires a criminal history record check for that position. An employer may still obtain the criminal history of an applicant at any time under this bill through means other than those prohibited by the bill.

The LWV supports measures that promote effective re-entry of individuals into the community upon release from the criminal justice system.

This bill has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee.

Kimberly Grogan 303.919.0822

KEEP JUSTICE FUNDS FOR NEXT YEAR

NEW SB 64 Retain Criminal Justice Program Funding (Sen. Lee; Rep. Weissman) (support)

Currently, unspent appropriated funds for the community-based reentry grant program, the crime victims grant program, the justice reinvestment crime prevention grant program, and the justice reinvestment crime prevention small business program revert to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year. This bill appropriates the funds into cash funds for each program instead so that unspent money is available for spending in future years. The bill also extends the repeal date for the justice reinvestment crime prevention initiative from 9/1/2020 to 9/1/2023.

The bill facilitates more efficient and adequate funding for an array of education and treatment services needed by offenders in communities. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Kimberly Grogan 303.919.0822

NATURAL RESOURCES

ENERGY

COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS

NEW HB 1003 Community Solar Gardens Modernization Act (Rep. Hansen; None)

(support) Community solar gardens are a form of distributed generation that involves a solar array with multiple subscribers who may purchase a portion of the power produced and receive a credit on their electric bill. There are about 70 community solar projects in the state, generating more than 50 megawatts of power (Colorado Energy Office, 2018).

The General Assembly passed the Colorado Community Solar Gardens Act in 2010. The proposed bill will make two changes to the existing statute:

- Increases the maximum size of a community solar garden from 2 megawatts to 10 megawatts;

- Removes certain location restrictions for subscribers and requires only that they be within the service territory of the same electric utility.

These changes may result in expansion of solar infrastructure in the state and offer more options for potential subscribers.

League supports a variety of energy sources with emphasis on conserving energy and using energy efficiency technologies with predominant reliance on renewable resources. It also supports government actions to encourage the use of renewable resources.

This bill is scheduled for a hearing in the House Energy & Environment Committee on January 17.

Ann Sutton 303.903.2097

Amy Sherwood 847.239.0236

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

RESTRICTING AIR QUALITY CONTROLS

NEW SB 53 California Motor Vehicle Emissions Standards (Sen. Cooke; None)

(oppose) This bill prohibits the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) from adopting emission standards that are more stringent than federal standards and from adopting the California motor vehicle standards and test procedures unless they are the same as the federal standards.

League opposes the current U.S. administration's measures that weaken emission standards for the country. We support making Colorado air quality standards stronger than federal law. Last summer, the US League of Women Voters resolved that all policies must pass The Climate Test criteria based on scientific studies, and thus we should not restrict the ability of the AQCC to set standards that will improve the health of Coloradans.

The bill has been assigned to the Health and Human Services Committee and will be heard on February 7.

Amy Sherwood 847.239.0236

Ann Sutton 303.903.2097

SOCIAL POLICY

HEALTH CARE

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH CARE

NEW **HB 1004 Proposal for Affordable Health Coverage Option (Reps. Roberts, Catlin; Donovan) (support)** Affirming that every Coloradan deserves access to high-quality affordable health care, the bill requires Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) and the Division of Insurance (DOI) to develop a proposal concerning the design, costs, benefits and implementation of a state-administered option for health care coverage.

League supports this bill which could enhance consumer options and access to health care, particularly in state regions where affordable health care is not available.

The bill is assigned to Health and Insurance to be heard on Jan. 23.

NEW **HB 1010 Free Standing Emergency Departments Licensure (Reps. Mullica, Landgraf; None) (support)** The bill creates a free-standing emergency department license through the Department of Public Health And Environment (CDPHE) for a health facility that offers emergency care and may offer primary and urgent care services, that is owned, operated or affiliated with a hospital or hospital system, and is 250 yards or more from the main hospital campus, or independent from, and not affiliated with, a hospital or hospital system nor located within 250 yards of a hospital. The department will establish and enforce standards including safety and care standards. The licensure of free-standing emergency departments will provide increased transparency and oversight in this healthcare cost driver as the state deals with spiraling health care costs, while also increasing awareness of areas in the state with either surpluses or deficits of emergency services.

League supports this bill as it addresses transparency, access and cost in health care. The bill was assigned to Health and Insurance where it will be heard on Jan. 16.

NEW **SB 1 Expand Medication-assisted Treatment Pilot Program (Sen. Garcia; None) (support)** The bill extends the Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot Program two years beyond its current expiration and expands the program to critical-need areas of the state, including the San Luis valley, with the ability to add two more counties where need is demonstrated. The MAT program has been an effective public health resource in areas with significant public health impact from the prevalence of opioid addiction, overdose incidences, and an inadequate number of providers.

League supports this bill which increases access to health care in an area of particular need and public concern.

This bill is assigned to Public Health Care and Human Services and is not yet scheduled.

NEW **SB 4 Address High-Cost Health Insurance Pilot Program (Sen. Donovan; Rep. Roberts) (support)** The bill authorizes the state personnel director to explore the feasibility of providing access to the group medical benefit plans offered to state employees to individuals that are not employees but live in high-priced health care premium areas. If feasible, a one-year pilot project would follow with stipulations as to eligibility and available slots.

The bill additionally modifies statute provisions related to cooperatives and pooling of individuals for more effective rate setting and healthcare delivery and authorizes application for a state innovation waiver for this.

League supports this bill which increases access and affordability to health care.

The bill is assigned to Public Health Care and Human Services and is not yet scheduled.

NEW **SB 5 Import Prescription Drugs from Canada (Sen. Lewis; Reps. Ginal, Rodriguez) (support)** The bill creates the Wholesale Drug Importation Act, under which the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) shall design a program to import prescription

pharmaceutical products from Canada for sale to Colorado consumers. The program must ensure drug safety and cost savings. HCPF shall submit a program design to the 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. An annual report, on what will be referred to as the Colorado Cares RX Act, will be delivered to the General Assembly and will identify the estimated cost savings to consumers, carriers and employers, as well providing other relevant information.

League supports this bill which enhances consumer access to pharmaceuticals through price competition. It was assigned to Public Health Care and Human Services and is not yet scheduled.

NEW SB 15 Create Statewide Health Care Review Committee (Sen. Beckman; Rep. Ginal) (support) The bill creates the Statewide Health Care Review Committee to study health-care issues affecting Colorado residents. Comprised of health-related committee members from the Senate and House, the committee will meet year around and consider a broad array of issues such as health-care affordability, payment systems, availability of federal funds and waivers, healthcare workforce, network adequacy, and emerging trends and innovation.

League supports this bill which supports the consumer through coordination of legislative efforts for health care, enhancing access and affordability. It will be heard Jan. 17 in Public Health Care and Human Services.

All 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	LL#	STATUS
Elections	SB	42	National Popular Vote	S	1	S-SVM
Elections	HB	1007	Contribution Limits For County Offices	S	1	H-SVM
Energy	HB	1003	Community Solar Gardens Modernization Act	S	1	H-En&En
Environmental Quality	SB	53	California Motor Vehicle Emission Standards	O	1	S-HHS
Health Care	SB	1	Expand Medication-assisted Treatment Pilot Program	S	1	S-PHCHS
Health Care	SB	4	Address High-cost Hlth Insurance Pilot Program	S	1	S-PHCHS
Health Care	SB	5	Import Prescription Drugs From Canada	S	1	S-PHCHS
Health Care	SB	15	Create Statewide Health Care Review Committee	S	1	S-PHCHS
Health Care	HB	1004	Proposal For Affordable Health Coverage Option	S	1	H-H&I
Health Care	HB	1010	Freestanding Emergency Departments Licensure	S	1	H-H&I
Justice System	SB	8	Substance Use Disorder Treatment In Crim Jus Sys	S	1	S-Jud
Justice System	SB	64	Retain Criminal Justice Programs Funding	S	1	S-Jud
Justice System	HB	1025	Limits On Job Applicant Criminal History Inquiries	S	1	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. If you find errors in the Letter, please contact Frank Bennett at 303.757.2930.