

2022 COLORADO STATE LEGISLATION CONCERNING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Final Update - June 13, 2022

Signed into law

| Bill# | Sponsor | Name of bill | Supporting/Opposing Orgs |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| SB019 | Winter | Access to Suppressed Court Eviction Records | +J,a,e,r,Z,w,I,C |
| SB050 | Coleman | Work Opportunities for Offenders in DOC | +r |
| SB052 | Jaquez Lewis | Medical Assistance Income Eligibility Requirements | +X,i,C,A |
| SB086 | Winter | Homestead Exemption and Consumer Debt Protect. | +a,C,r,n,c,b,S,s |
| SB099 | Hisey & Rodriguez | Sealing Criminal Records | +C,i,I,y,e,x,p,h,J,X,b,r,n,T,v,S |
| SB140 | Coleman | Expansion of Experiential Learning Opportunities | +2,C |
| SB159 | Bridges & Zenzinger | Revolving Loan Fund for Affordable Housing | +A,w,X |
| SB160 | Gonzales & Hinrichsen | Loan Program Resident Owned Communities | +C,A,9,r,J ,w,T,V |
| SB161 | Danielson & Jaquez Lewis | Wage Theft Emp Misclassification Enforcement | +t,C |
| SB182 | Hansen & Coram | Economic Mobility Program | +r,w,A,f |
| SB185 | Danielson & Buckner | Security for Colorado Seniors | +A,X |
| SB192 | Zenzinger & Simpson | Opportunities for Credential Attainment | +Y |
| SB213 | Fields & Sonnenberg | Child Care Support Programs | +y,w,u |
| SB233 | Hinrichsen & Rodriguez | TABOR Refund Mechanism for 2021-2022 Only | +f,b,C,c,w |
| SB234 | Hansen & Rankin | Unemployment Compensation | +f,C |
| HB1010 | Sirota & Van Beber | Early Childhood Educator Income Tax Credit | +y,a,C,X,z,Y,x,,K,j,w,S |
| HB1018 | Kennedy | Electric & Gas Utility Customer Protections | +E,A,r,s |
| HB1050 | Ricks | International Medical Graduates Health Care Workforce | +m,o,2,a,C,K |
| HB1051 | Byrd & McKean | Modify Affordable Housing Tax Credits | +e,X,w,A,h,s |
| HB1055 | Lontine & Herod | Sales Tax Exemption Essential Hygiene Products | +n,Y,z,g,h,y,f,j,W |
| HB1082 | Hooton | Establish Fair Housing Unit | +J,C,K,A,h,r,e,w,v,T |
| HB1083 | Woodrow | Colorado Homeless Contribution Income Tax Credit | +h,S,a,e,p,v,y,s |
| HB1098 | Bird and Bacon | DORA Barriers to Practice Regulated Professions | +o,x,C,J |
| HB1133 | Gray | Family & Medical Leave Insurance Fund | +9,g,l,a,y,h,l,W |
| HB1205 | Kennedy & Weissman | Senior Housing Income Tax Credit | +A,r,f,C,e,J |
| HB1223 | Kipp & Rich | Mobile Home Prop Tax Sale Notice and Exemption | +J,w,s |
| HB1224 | Tipper & Soper | Public Benefits Theft | +C,c,r |
| HB1230 | Duran & Exum | Employment Support & Job Retention Services | +2,C,a,y,h,r,J,m,Y,z |
| HB1259 | Duran & Jodeh | Modifications to Colorado Works Program | +y,C,a,h,B,f,O,J,k,H,j,p,R,m,z,K,S |
| HB1269 | Lontine | Healthcare Sharing Plan Reporting Requirements | +c,C,A,r,S |
| HB1279 | Froelich & Esgar | Reproductive Health Equity Act | +c,I,w,K,n,z,Y,T,g,a,S,W,C |
| HB1282 | Mullica & Lynch | Innovative Housing & Incentive Program | +A,h,w,X |
| HB1287 | Boesenecker & Hooton | Protections for Mobile Home Park Residents | +C,J,9,a,w,S,V,A,r,E,s |
| HB1289 | Gonzales-Gutierrez & McCluskie | Health Benefits for Children & Pregnant Persons | +I,C,K,a,y,o,r,w,V,X,W,,S,O,x |
| HB1304 | Roberts & Bradfield | State Grants Local Affordable Housing | +A,w,X,h,c,T |
| HB1356 | Herod & Hooton | CBO Infrastructure Grants | +e,O,X,r |
| HB1359 | Bacon & Snyder | Household Financial Recovery Program | +b,X,A |
| HB1364 | Cutter & Soper | Food Pantry Assistance Program | +H,C,X |
| HB1367 | Lontine & Gray | Updates to Employment Discrimination Law | +C |
| HB1377 | Woodrow and Exum | Grant Program Providing Responses to Homelessness | +h,J,r,e,X |
| HB1380 | Gonzales-Gutierrez & Pelton | Critical Services for Low Income Households | +C,A,k,E,X |
| <u>HB1414</u> | Gonzales-Gutierrez & Michaelson Jenet | Healthy Meals for All Public School Students | +C,j,f |
| | | | |

Supporting/Opposing Orgs (+ support; - oppose)

| C: CCLP | e: Enterprise Com Partners | k: Elephant Circle | r: Cross Disabilities Coalition | w: League of Women Voters |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2: Skills2Compete | f: Colorado Fiscal Inst. | K: Rose Community Foundation | R: Raise Colorado | W: Women's Lobby |
| 9: 9 to 5 | g: COLOR | M: Metro Caring | s: CO Ctr on Aging | x: Healthier Colorado |
| a: AFDC Coalition | h: CO Coalition for Homeless | m: Spring Inst. | S: CO Social Legis Com | X: Mental Health CO |
| A: AARP | H: Hunger Free Colorado | n: New Era | t: Towards Justice | y: CO Children's Campaign |
| B: EFAA | i: Interfaith Alliance | N: United for a New Economy | T: Together Colorado | Y: Young Invincibles |
| b: Bell Policy Ctr | I: CIRC | o: CCHN | u: Mile High United Way | z: Women's Foundation |
| c: CCHI | j: Illuminate | O: CLLARO | V: Voces Unidos de los Montanas | Z: COVID Evict Legal Defense |
| E: Energy Outreach CO | J: Colo Poverty Law Project | p: Lutheran Advocacy Ministry | v: Violence-Free CO | |

2022 COLORADO STATE LEGISLATION CONCERNING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION

State budget

We examine budget and the invisible budget. Like a budget, Colorado's slate of tax credits is also a moral decision. For what reason, and for whom, does our state allow tax breaks? Given our flat rate income tax and reliance on sales tax, Coloradans with the lowest incomes pay a higher percentage of their income in state taxes than Coloradans who make more money. Reduction in the income tax rate-like the ones proposed in - disproportionately favors the wealthy and provides no benefit to Coloradans with lower incomes. SB182 on the other hand funds efforts in CDPHE to inform and connect families with tax credits like FITC and Child Tax Credit.

Income/expenses

HB1259 is a robust law helping Colorado's poorest families. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program serves families who earn less than 28% of the Federal Poverty Level. The bill would increase the grant by 10% and add an annual cost of living increase. For example, the monthly grant for one parent and one child would increase from \$400 per MONTH to \$440 per month. It reduces sanctions, formalizes criteria for exemption to the 5-year time limit and to the work requirement. It proposes a smoother process of transitioning from welfare to work and formalizes outreach and participant involvement in program evaluation and improvement.

HB86 adds exemptions to consumer debt protections like protecting vehicles that serve as homes and protecting child tax credits from collection measures.

Our clean slate law **SB099** automates record sealing for certain past crimes currently eligible for record sealing through individual review by a court. Only 5% of people eligible have used the current process.

HB1230 continues the Employment Support Services Fund established by CCLP and Skills2Compete in 2019. It provides up to \$400/year for an individual living below the federal poverty level to meet an emergency need as they pursue an employment goal.

SB233 authorizes an advance in issuing TABOR refunds, utilizing a flat \$400 per individual, \$800 per couple for 2022 taxes only. **SB234** authorizes a separate unemployment insurance program for those employees whose employers pay into unemployment insurance but are not eligible for the existing program due to their immigration status.

Food

Through "community eligibility", SB087 would have continued free school lunch and breakfast to include all students at schools which choose to participate. Due to price tag, the bill did not move forward, but was replaced by HB1414 which refers a measure to the ballot to fund school meals, paid for by capping tax deduction for those who earn \$300,000 per year or more. HB1364 renews grants to food banks. HB1380 makes a number of improvements to SNAP, expanding access through small retailer markets and farmers market, and improving technology to manage SNAP applications and caseload. There is new emphasis on locally grown food, fresh food, and culturally relevant food.

Housing

Even prior to the epidemic, about half of Colorado renters paid more than 30% of their income for rent, with about ¼ of renters paying more than half their income for rent. We are expecting legislation to allocate more than \$400 million in one-time federal funds for affordable housing, reflecting the work of the Affordable Housing Transformational Interim Task Force. HB1287 helps residents of mobile home parks whose parks go up for sale, threatening them with displacement or rent increases, boosting to opportunity to purchase such parks collectively. It would also add relocation assistance for closing park residents. It adds to the enforcement of the Mobile Home Park Act and bolsters the Dispute Resolution Program in DOLA. SB160 provides one-time money to help residents purchase their mobile home parks if they go up for sale.

HB1377 authorizes a one-time infusion of \$100 million to bolster programs addressing homelessness.

Health

Recommendations based on the work of the Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force will allocate about \$400 million in one-time federal funds toward behavioral health.

HB1289 provides equal health care coverage using existing federal funding for pregnant people who would otherwise be eligible for CHP or Medicaid if not for their current immigration status, with coverage for 12 months post-partum. It would also provide health care coverage equal to Medicaid or CHP to children, regardless of immigration status, through age 18. It also eliminates premium copays for Child Health Plan.

HB1133 prepays 6 months of premiums for state employees for the new FMLA coverage which will begin in 2024, paying in premiums for 2023 to build up a pool of funding to draw from to help with program implementation.

Child Care

HB1010 offers refundable tax credits of up to \$1000/year for certain early childhood educators. Their pay often barely exceeds minimum wage, resulting in staff shortages and high turnover.

SB213 authorizes a one-time \$100 million to support childcare, including Family, Friends and Neighbor provided childcare as well as other childcare providers.

To read the text of any bill, its fiscal impact or current status, or for legislator contact info, visit <u>leg.colorado.gov</u>.

For questions, corrections, more information, or to add your organization's positions to the list, contact Chaer Robert, crobert@cclponline.org.