



Colorado Center on Law and Policy

2024 COLORADO STATE LEGISLATION CONCERNING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION

April 30, 2024

Table with 5 columns: Bill#, Sponsor, Title, Com, Supporting/Opposing Orgs. Lists various bills and their details.

Supporting/Opposing Orgs (+ support; - oppose)

- List of organizations and their abbreviations: C = CO Center on Law and Policy, 2 = Skills2Compete, 6 = SiX Action, 9 = 9to5, a = AFDC Coalition, A = AARP, B = Blueprint to End Hunger, b = The Bell Policy Center, c = CO Consumer Health Initiative, d = Disability Law Colorado, D = The Denver Foundation, E = EFAA, e = Enterprise Community Partners, f = Colorado Fiscal Institute, g = COLOR, G = Clayton Early Learning, h = CO Coalition for Homeless, H = Hunger Free Colorado, i = Interfaith Alliance, l = CO Immigrant Rights Coalition, j = Illuminate, J = Colorado Poverty Law Project, k = Elephant Circle, L = Statewide Parent Coalition, m = Spring Institute, M = Hispanic Affairs Project, n = New Era, N = United for a New Economy, O = CLLARO, p = Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, P = Centennial State Prosperity, Q = CHIC, q = Soul 2 Soul Sisters, r = CO Cross-Disability Coalition, s = Colorado Center on Aging, S = CO Social Legislative Comm, t = Towards Justice, T = Together Colorado, U = ACLU, V = Voces Unidas, v = Violence Free Colorado, w = League of Women Voters, W = Women's Lobby of CO, x = Healthier Colorado, X = Mental Health Colorado, y = CO Children's Campaign, Y = Young Invincibles, z = The Women's Foundation of CO, Z = Comm Econ Defense Project

Committees

- Legend for committee abbreviations: S = Senate, Ed = Education, Fin = Finance, Sa = State Affairs, App = Appropriations, H = House, Hhs = Health & Human Services, Tra = Transportation, Conf = Conference Com, Jud = Judiciary, Thl = Transportation, Housing & Local Govt, Conc = Concurrence, Bus = Business Affairs & Labor, Bit = Business Labor, & Technology

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State Budget

Much of federal funding, which has helped see Colorado through the pandemic, is ending shortly, causing some programs to end and others to reduce their size. Meanwhile, Colorado expects revenues above the TABOR cap, at least for a couple years – \$3.5 billion above the TABOR cap in 2022-23; \$1.82 Billion for FY2023-24; \$1.91 billion for 2024-25 and \$2.29 billion for 2025-26. This TABOR surplus cannot go to programs, but can fund various tax credits. For many proposals legislators decide: what is more valuable: tax credits to bolster priorities or preserving or maximizing TABOR refunds to individuals?

Income/expenses

[HB1134](#) proposes a new permanent EITC expansion to extend and maintain a federal match at 50% of the federal credit rather than the 20% of the federal EITC that will otherwise return in future years. The bill would also blend the state Child Care Tax Credit and the Low-Income Child Care Tax Credit. [HB1311](#) would create a new form of TABOR rebate that is a progressive child tax credit, with more for those with the youngest children and the lowest income.

Pay transparency for app-based gig workers and customers is again on the table with [SB075](#) and [HB1129](#). What do different tasks pay? How far is the drive? How much was tipped within an app are important determinants of whether a job task is desirable or viable. Transparency about why workers might be blocked from the app and having an appeal process for potential reinstatement are basic elements of minimal job quality. Through [HB1008](#), contractors in the construction field could be liable for wages not paid to workers working for their subcontractors. [HB1286](#) funds civil legal through filing fees.

Justice involved/re-entry

[HB1133](#) is a Clean Slate clean-up bill. It allows persons arrested in cases of mistaken identity to petition the court if the arresting agency has not expunged it. It creates an automated process to seal certain non-convictions that occurred prior to 2022. As of 2022, people could get many of those non-convictions sealed immediately.

[HB1004](#) clarifies previous legislation regarding those with past felonies obtaining professional licenses. To oversimplify, offenses which were nonviolent and more than 3 years old could not be considered against someone obtaining a professional license. Those with violent felonies would have their criminal records considered by regulators of professions. Individuals could ask for an advance ruling on whether their criminal record would prevent them from obtaining a license, so they don't spend time training for a job they would not be allowed to do.

Childcare

[HB1009](#) would require testing for childcare provider licenses and information for childcare providers to be translated into the two most common languages in Colorado. [HB1312](#) creates a new tax credit for Child Care, and home care workers. [HB1223](#) is an omnibus bill on the Colorado Child Care Assistance

program, including lower caps on some parental copays, and payments to providers based on enrollment versus daily attendance.

Older adults

[SB040](#) would add \$5 million, and an automatic inflation adjustment to Older Coloradans Act funding. The funding helps older adults remain in their homes and thrive, with locally determined services including meals on wheels, congregate meals, home health services, etc. The bill would also initiate a review of the sufficiency of funding giving growth in Coloradans over 65. [HB1052](#) would renew for one year a refundable tax credit for seniors who are renters, or otherwise ineligible for the Senior Homestead Exemption.

Housing

Half of Coloradans pay more than 30% of their income for rent. Almost ¼ pay half of their income for rent. [SB064](#) would provide more geographic and process and aggregate outcome data on those who are being evicted. [HB1007](#) would prohibit local governments from establishing residential occupancy limits on any basis other square footage per person based on health and safety concerns. For example, local governments could not require that occupants be related by blood or adoption. [HB1098](#) would require cause – such as nonpayment of rent or substantial lease violation – to not renew a lease and proceed with an eviction. [SB094](#) would add timelines and clarify court processes regarding enforcement of Warranty of Habitability laws. [HB1057](#) would prohibit the practice setting rents by algorithms, such as factoring in average area rents, percentage of vacant units, etc. [HB1099](#) would eliminate filing fees from those defending against their own eviction.

Health

[SB116](#) modifies current law regarding screening patients for their eligibility for hospital discounted care if they fall below 225% of the Federal Poverty Level. Under the bill, patients must attest to living in Colorado. The bill adds the requirement to the current fee cap that the combined charge of both facility and the professionals cannot exceed six percent of a patient's household income. It adds exceptions for clinics in rural or frontier counties which offer a sliding fee scale. It also allows a facility to deny discounted care if the patients are screened to seem presumptively eligible for Medicaid. The scope and funding for school-based health care would increase under [SB034](#). Telehealth, mobile units and offsite, but school-linked clinics could help delivery care. The Youth Mental Health Services Program, with its access to limited mental health counseling would continue under [SB001](#).

[SB080](#) requires insurers to have an online consumer facing tool to provide prices based on cost sharing. [HB1037](#) came out of the Interim Committee on Opioid Abuse. [HB1028](#) again tries to establish Overdose Prevention centers. [HB1075](#) would authorize Colorado School of Public Health to conduct an analysis of various legislative proposals establishing a statewide single payer universal health care system.

To read the text of any bill, its fiscal impact or current status, or for legislator contact info, go to www.leg.colorado.gov. For questions, corrections, more information, or to add your organization's positions to the list, contact Chaer Robert, crobert@copolicy.org.