

# COLORADO STATE SENATE

MAJORITY OFFICE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2014

## The Colorado Senate – week in review

(March 24 - March 28)



DENVER -- The legislature is on day 80 with a total of 564 bills and resolutions introduced. As of Monday, March 24, Gov. Hickenlooper signed 71 bills into law.

We only have 40 days left of the legislative session, and next week we will hear the 2014/2015 state budget.

To help everyone keep pace, here is a week in review of the Senate.

### **Monday, March 24**

The Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs committee approved legislation to ensure that Colorado retains and possibly expands military bases in Colorado. Pres. Morgan Carroll, D-Aurora, and Minority Leader Bill Cadman, R-Colo. Springs, crafted SB 14-157 to study the strategic and economic advantages of military missions in Colorado. The study will help during the next Base Realignment and Closure evaluations in 2015. Next, SB 14-157 must go to the Senate Appropriations committee.

### **Tuesday, March 25**

The Senate gave bipartisan approval to legislation that curtails the practice of using booking photos, or mug shots, for monetary gain (HB 14-1047). Sen. Lucia Guzman, D-Denver, crafted the legislation to prevent commercial websites

from posting booking photos of Coloradans for the purpose of charging those individuals who request removal. HB 14-1047 is on its way to Gov. Hickenlooper who can sign it into law.

### **Wednesday, March 26**

The Senate Education committee heard testimony on legislation by Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, D-Arvada, that will reduce the dropout rate and provide improved educational opportunities for high-risk students. Nearly one in five high-risk alternative school students dropped out of school during the 2012-2013 school year. SB 14-167, creates the Opportunity Schools Pilot Initiative, which will provide additional funding for alternative education campuses.

In an effort to keep Coloradans safe, the Senate approved legislation which expands the duty of mental health therapists to warn law enforcement when a patient states a specific threat against a location or entity. As it is now, the law only provides immunity and a duty to notify when a threat is made toward a specific person. Sen. Linda Newell, D-Littleton, crafted the HB 14-1271 to change and expand the law to protect therapists and allow them to warn law enforcement whenever necessary. HB 14-1047 is on its way to Gov. Hickenlooper who can sign it into law.

### **Thursday, March 27**

Gov. Hickenlooper signed a number of bills into law, including:

HB 14-1079 by Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, which helps businesses expand and hire by raising additional capital through limited offerings of securities.

HB 14-1208 by Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, which allows seven rural school districts in Colorado to continue providing special education and related services without disruption or additional expense. It authorizes and grandfathers three existing, multi-district partnerships: Mesa County, Gunnison, and Fort Lupton/Keenesburg Consortium.

HB 14-1183 by Sen. Matt Jones, which ensures active-duty troops will not lose their state credentials if the credentials expire while they were serving. The act requires the state to reinstate all expired licenses, certificates, and registrations for active-duty troops.

SB 14-062 by Sen. Lucia Guzman, which creates a process for the reinstatement of parent-child legal relationships if strict qualifications and conditions are met. For example, the child must meet specific age requirements, and the original termination of the parent-child relationship must not have been because of severe abuse or a near fatality. In addition, both the child and the former parent must consent to a petition for reinstatement.

### **Friday, March 28**

The Senate approved legislation by Sen. Pat Steadman and Sen. Matt Jones that ensures every eligible voter can easily navigate and vote in every election, including recall elections. SB 14-158 aligns policy allowing all registered voters to receive a mail ballot in recall elections, similar to general elections. The option to vote in person is also preserved. Next, the House of Representatives must consider SB 14-158.

The Senate approved legislation by Sen. Jessie Ulibarri to update the Uniform Election Code of 1992. SB 14-161 will help to prevent fraud and expand access for overseas and military voters. Next, the House of Representatives must consider SB 14-161.

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#### **About the Senate Majority**

Eighteen Democrats comprise the majority of Colorado's 35-member Senate. Leadership for the 69th General Assembly includes Senate President Morgan Carroll; President Pro Tempore Lucia Guzman; Majority Leader Rollie Heath; Assistant Majority Leader Irene Aguilar, Caucus Chair Jeanne Nicholson, and Majority Whip Gail Schwartz.

Breaking news, legislator biographies and photos are available at [coloradosenate.org](http://coloradosenate.org).