



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: April 20, 2018
TO: Transportation Commissioners, Executive Director, Executive Management Team, Branch Managers, and Office Directors
FROM: Andy Karsian, Office of Policy & Government Relations
RE: Legislative Update

Overview

There are many names legislators and lobbyists use to describe this time of year: silly season, crazy time, beginning of the end, and others that are unfit for print. At the time of this memo legislators have thirteen weekdays to complete the session. The clock runs out at midnight on May 9th. To illustrate what still needs to be done, there are 328 bills remaining, up from 295 the week before, and both chambers continue to introduce new bills. Legislators must still find answers on funding PERA, marijuana regulations, school finance, and, of course, transportation funding. Legislators will debate these, and plenty of other issues, in the coming days which will quickly turn into late nights as well.

Legislation

As of today, CDOT is tracking 35 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts on CDOT, its employees, and the state's transportation network. Below are summaries of a few bills introduced or heard this week.

Senate Bill 18-200 (PERA Funding): The House Finance committee debated the PERA funding bill this week. The Senate passed the bill along party lines a month ago, but the House waited until after the state budget passed to take up the bill. The House Democrats made significant changes to the bill in committee. They zeroed out the employee contribution. The Senate had raised the contribution to 11% from 8%. An amendment passed dedicating more than \$200M from the state budget to cover some of the revenue from employees. The House lowered the age in which an employee may receive a pension from 65 to 60 years old, lower than Social Security. The committee also approved other amendments that limited annual cost of living allowances, and increased the number of years on which a pension is based. One of the most contentious PERA issues is the defined contribution plan. This allows employees and employers to contribute to different market based investments. The House committee removed this plan from the bill.

The changes made in committee mark a very different bill than what came over from the Senate. This is sure to trigger intense debate on the House floor with numerous amendments to the bill. Once the bill passes the House, both chambers will have to decide how important it is to fund PERA this year, or wait until next year. Either way, with 10% of the state's population part of PERA, campaigns will hear about the outcome during the election year campaigns.

House Bill 18-1362 (Colorado Task Force on Drunk and Impaired Driving Membership): This bill is not the most exciting bill the House Transportation Committee heard this year, but it did impress some members. HB 1362 simply adds three members to the CTFDID. The new members represent the marijuana industry and drug rehabilitation programs. The new members will join a task force that works on identifying solutions to the increasing number of impaired drivers on state highways. As marijuana is a factor in impaired driving it makes sense to have relevant interests on the CTFDID.

Three members of the CTFDID testified in support of the bill, one being CDOT's Glenn Davis, Highway Safety Manager. The testimony and follow up questions educated the committee members about the national reputation of the task force and how other states look to Colorado as a model.

