



**DATE:** April 21, 2017  
**TO:** Transportation Commissioners, Executive Director, Executive Management Team, Branch Managers, and Office Directors  
**FROM:** Andy Karsian, Office of Policy & Government Relations  
**RE:** Weekly Legislative Report - 2017 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

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## Overview

Two weeks remain in the session and now legislating gets more difficult rather than easier. The Legislature still needs to pass the state budget, the school finance bill, and come to terms on what they want to do regarding transportation funding. All of this while navigating the heightened emotions that go with stressful compressed timeframes and long days debating policy and politics. Some of the lower profile bills moved further along the process this week. The Colorado State Patrol came one step closer to taking on CDOT's Motorcycle Operator Safety Training program with the House Transportation committee passing SB-243. Also, motorists will soon face stiffer penalties if they do not move over for emergency vehicles, including stationary CDOT vehicles alongside the road, under SB229 which the Senate passed this week.

## Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 48 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts on CDOT, its employees, or the state's transportation network. Below are summaries of the few bills introduced or heard this week.

**Senate Bill 17-267 (Sustainability of Rural Colorado).** Last week the Senate Finance committee passed this bill which covers education and transportation funding, the hospital provider fee, and lowering the TABOR cap. The Finance committee passed the bill 3-2 with one Republican voting in favor. As amended in committee, CDOT would repay the majority of the interest on the \$1.3B certificates of purchase (COP) issued to pay for road construction. Many legislators in both parties question the use of COPs for road construction; however, the transportation funding portion of the bill is not the most controversial. Negotiations on reducing the state TABOR spending cap have stalled with the Senate and House disagreeing on how low the cap should be. Negotiations hit a tough spot and the future of the bill looks increasingly difficult as it has passed only one committee in the Senate and would still need to pass the House.

CDOT Position: Support with ongoing conversations with the sponsors.

**House Bill 17-1242 (Sales Tax Increase for Infrastructure Projects).** The bipartisan support of HB 1242 stopped short this this week in the Senate Finance committee. This Thursday the swing vote on the committee publically stated that he would not support HB1242. This puts the future of the bill in jeopardy as there are now not enough votes to move the bill out of the five member Finance committee. The Senate President and House Speaker continue to negotiate with committee members; however, even if the bill escapes the Finance committee, the Senate Appropriations committee will likely be a heavy lift with three of the four Republican members publically against the bill, and the other unlikely to vote for it. The bill is up in Senate Finance next Tuesday. If the President does not have a compromise by then, he has said he will kill his bill in that committee.

CDOT Position: Support

If you have any questions on these or any other legislative issues please contact Andy Karsian at 303-757-9073. Weekly memos and our bill tracking chart is also [available online](#).

