

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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DATE: April 20, 2012

TO: Transportation Commissioners, Executive Director, Executive Management Team, Branch Managers, and Office Directors

FROM: Kurtis Morrison, Office of Policy & Government Relations Office

RE: Weekly Legislative Report – 2012 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

Overview

Today is the 101st day of the legislative session; only 19 days remain on the calendar until adjournment of the General Assembly. As of today, 605 bills and resolutions have been introduced. CDOT is currently monitoring 116 bills – 83 of which are still under consideration by the House and Senate.

This week **HB 12-1335 (Gerou/Hodge)**, the annual budget bill, also known as the “Long Bill,” was debated in the Senate. CDOT monitored the bill through the caucus process and on the floor, and responded to legislator questions regarding the CDOT budget. On Thursday, the bill passed on 3rd Reading by a 30-5 vote. The bill now heads to a conference committee (comprised of the Joint Budget Committee members) to iron out differences between the House and Senate version.

Legislation

HB 1136 (Ramirez/Roberts). HB 1136 would prohibit the use of public land for retail sales. This bill received its first hearing on Wednesday before the House Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs. CDOT testified in opposition to this bill, stating that the department prefers to retain the flexibility to utilize public private partnerships (PPP) for amenities such as rest areas. The bill passed out of committee on a narrow party line vote. It now heads to the full House for consideration on 2nd Reading.

SB 013 (Schwartz/Jones). The Low-speed Electric Vehicles bill was passed by the House on 3rd Reading on Thursday. This bill would allow low-speed electric vehicles on state highways with speeds up to 40 miles-per-hour, but only in limited circumstances approved by CDOT.

Next Week

HB 1014 (Baumgardner/Neville). The Modify Late Vehicle Registration Fee bill is scheduled to be heard next week in the Senate Transportation Committee. The bill, already approved by the House, would reduce the fee for late registration of a vehicle from \$25 per month (capped at \$100) to a flat \$20 fee. The bill is estimated to reduce CDOT, county, and city transportation funding by approximately \$12 million per year.

SB 001(Hudak/Duran and Ryden). After receiving approval by the full Senate, the Contracting Preferences for Employing Coloradans bill will be heard next week in the House State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee. The bill would establish new preference points for service and construction project bidding so long as a percentage of Colorado based employees are used on the contract. An amendment was earlier adopted allowing CDOT and other departments a waiver from complying when doing so would place federal funds at risk.

If you have any questions on these or any other legislative issues please feel free to contact Kurt Morrison, Legislative Liaison at 303-757-9077. This memo and a link to the bill tracking chart are available online at: <http://statebillinfo.com/SBI/index.cfm?fuseaction=Public.Dossier&id=16253&pk=251&style=pinstripe>