

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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DATE: April 27, 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 108th day of the legislative session; only 12 days remain on the calendar until adjournment of the General Assembly. As of today, 627 bills and resolutions have been introduced in the House and Senate. CDOT is currently monitoring 118 bills – 83 of which are still under consideration by the legislature.

Legislation

HB 12-1108 (Kagan/Scheffel). On Thursday, the LOGO Signs in Urban Areas bill, a department bill to expand the LOGO and tourist-oriented signs (TODS) programs passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee unanimously. The proposal has been scheduled for the Senate consent calendar next Monday.

HB 12-1136 (Ramirez/Roberts). HB 1136 would place a state prohibition on the use of public land by private contractors. The department prefers to retain the flexibility to utilize public private partnerships (PPP) for amenities such as rest areas. As such, the department opposes the bill. This week, the bill was up on 3rd Reading in the House, where it passed by a very narrow margin. The bill now moves to the Senate where it will be heard by the State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee next week.

HB 12-1014 (Baumgardner/Neville). The bill to lower to \$20 the late vehicle registration fee was postponed indefinitely by the Senate Transportation Committee on Thursday. The bill would have reduced state transportation revenue by approximately \$12 million per year. CDOT testified in opposition to this legislation and responded to questions from the committee.

SJR 12-025 (Grantham). Senate Joint Resolution 25 is a non-binding decree encouraging Amtrak not to eliminate the Southwest Chief route that passes through southeast Colorado. This week, the Senate Transportation Committee approved the resolution. The measure now moves to the full Senate. At the hearing, CDOT responded to questions from the committee and provided background information on federal funding for rail.

SB 001(Hudak/Duran and Ryden). The Contracting Preferences for Employing Coloradans bill was postponed indefinitely in the House State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee. The bill would have established preference points for project bidding so long as a percentage of Colorado-based employees are used on the contract.

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>