



**General Assembly
Democrats**



General Assembly Democrats 2021 End of Session Report

Revitalizing Our Economy, Delivering Urgent Relief, Forging a More Prosperous Future for Coloradans

In the midst of a global pandemic and a challenging year that has severely impacted the lives of Coloradans, Democrats came together to deliver urgent relief to struggling Coloradans and build our state back stronger. The legislature was able to deliver on promises that were years in the making – passing transformational legislation that will pave the way for a Colorado where everyone can thrive. By putting people over politics and working across the aisle to accomplish great things, 94% of our passed legislation received bipartisan support.

In order to recover faster and build back stronger, lawmakers developed a bipartisan state stimulus package to foster the Colorado Comeback, make monumental investments to strengthen small businesses, support Colorado families, invest in rural Colorado, and develop our workforce. Specifically, lawmakers passed bills to:

- Create a \$30 million startup loan fund for businesses across the state;
- Provide \$15 million in grants to small businesses;
- Invest \$22 million to support artists and arts and-culture organizations;
- Provide more than \$100 million to increase child care capacity and affordability;
- Create a \$30 million loan and grant program for Colorado's agricultural sector;
- Add \$8 million to rural economic development programs; and
- Allocate \$75 million in for upskilling and reskilling our state's workforce.

In addition to passing state stimulus policies, state leaders worked collaboratively to enact Colorado's roadmap to Building Back Stronger – embarking on a statewide listening tour to gather input on how to allocate nearly \$4 billion in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The resulting legislation immediately deployed hundreds of millions of dollars to make housing more affordable, provide emergency behavioral health services and help workers complete degree or skills-training programs. The roadmap also dedicated \$1.3 billion in federal funds to protect critical state services in future years and set aside nearly \$1.8 billion for future transformational investments in housing, behavioral health, education and workforce development, and economic stimulus and recovery that will be crafted through bipartisan interim processes.

Beyond tackling urgent needs and enacting once-in-a-generation stimulative plans, lawmakers prioritized addressing longstanding issues that have burdened Colorado for decades. One such issue is the inaccessibility and unaffordability of health care. With skyrocketing health care costs and limited

affordable options, lawmakers crafted legislation to implement the Colorado Option, a policy that is set to save Coloradans 15 percent on their insurance premiums and create a guaranteed plan for consumers. Lawmakers also passed the Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board, which will reduce the cost of prescription drugs and help protect Coloradans from having to forgo life-saving medications because they're too expensive.

Another long-standing issue that has held Colorado's economy back for decades is transportation. After booming population growth yet insufficient funding, Colorado's infrastructure is in desperate need of repair and modernization. That's why the 73rd General Assembly prioritized passing a groundbreaking transportation plan – finally ending the gridlock that has plagued our state for years. Supported by a large, bipartisan coalition, this historic legislation will help support a dynamic economy, improve air quality, create jobs, and ensure Colorado is well-positioned to compete with other states.

Sadly, the legislature was also confronted with the all-too-familiar issue of gun violence during the legislative session. After 10 people lost their lives in the Boulder King Soopers shooting, Democratic lawmakers crafted and passed three measures designed to save lives by expanding background checks, creating a resource office for gun violence prevention, and giving local governments the tools they need to craft community-based solutions. In combination with three other measures including safe storage, reporting of lost or stolen weapons, and protecting domestic violence survivors, the legislature passed six critical bills in total this year to curb the epidemic of gun violence.

In 2021, General Assembly Democrats rose to the occasion and championed policies that will not only support people in the aftermath of the pandemic but pave a hopeful path forward by creating a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous Colorado for all.

[^] indicates that a bill has bipartisan prime sponsorship

^{} indicates that the bill is part of the [Colorado Comeback State Stimulus plan](#) or [federal stimulus roadmap](#)*

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A Budget That Reflects Colorado's Values

[SB21-205: 2021-22 State Budget](#), by Senator Moreno and Representative McCluskie

Colorado's \$34.6 billion budget funds core services such as education, corrections, health care, and human services. This year the budget prioritized: restoring cuts that the General Assembly was forced to make last year due to the pandemic; uplifting the most marginalized Coloradans to ensure an equitable economic recovery; and investing in Colorado's future by boosting critical funding for K-12, higher education, and economic stimulus and recovery efforts across the state.

[Colorado Comeback State Stimulus Package](#)

In the wake of the pandemic, the legislature came together to deliver a unique Colorado solution designed to stimulate our economy and rebuild a more just and resilient Colorado, focusing on the hardest-hit sectors of our economy and communities. The state stimulus package invested \$800 million in state dollars into five key areas:

- Strengthening small businesses
- Revitalizing our infrastructure
- Supporting Colorado families
- Investing in rural Colorado
- Developing our workforce

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[Building Back Stronger Federal Stimulus Plan](#)

The robust federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act presented the legislature with a unique opportunity to both address immediate needs and make thoughtful, targeted investments in Colorado's future. Following a statewide listening tour where we heard from Coloradans about the current and future needs facing their communities, the legislature created a structure to split the funds between short- and long-term investments in key needs:

- Stimulus and relief efforts;
- Creating transformational change in the areas of housing, behavioral health, and workforce development and skills-training programs; and
- Budget integrity measures to protect critical services like K-12, higher education, health care, and human services in future years.

Supporting Small Businesses and Economic Development

[HB21-1312: Colorado Small Business Tax Fairness Plan](#), by Representatives Weissman & Sirota and Senators Hansen & Moreno

Recognizing the urgent need to provide relief to Colorado small businesses, this bill expands the business personal property taxes (BPPT) exemption from \$7,900 to \$50,000, providing relief on a particularly burdensome tax for over two-thirds of small businesses that remit BPPT. The bill pays for this small business tax break by modifying ineffective tax subsidies for the largest businesses, such as strengthening the criteria insurance companies must meet in order to receive a discount on their insurance premium tax rate.

[*SB21-241: Small Business Accelerated Growth Program](#), by Senator Fields & Bridges and Representatives Ricks & Daugherty

Colorado businesses have been impacted heavily by the pandemic, making it difficult to achieve their long-term growth potential. This bill creates the Small Business Accelerated Growth Program to provide small businesses on the verge of major growth with tools and resources to take their businesses to the next level. This program will ensure that these businesses will be able to build back stronger after the pandemic.

[^*HB21-1265: Restaurants Retain Sales Tax For Assistance](#), by Representatives Mullica & Van Winkle and Senators Pettersen & Woodward

Restaurants and other food service businesses were particularly hard-hit by the pandemic. This bill continues a successful sales tax assistance effort passed during the 2020 special session allowing restaurants, bars, caterers, and food service contractors to deduct up to \$70,000 in monthly net taxable sales during the months of June, July and August of 2021 and instead retain that tax revenue to support their businesses' recovery.

[*HB21-1302: Colorado Small Business Energize Gap Fund](#), by Representatives Herod & Daugherty and Senator Winter

Recognizing the pandemic's devastating impact on small business owners, this bill provides \$15 million to Colorado's successful Energize Gap Fund to support Colorado businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with particular focus on businesses in rural or economically distressed areas and those that are owned by veterans, women, and minorities.

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[^][SB21-252: Community Revitalization Grant Program](#), by Senate Majority Leader Fenberg & Senate Minority Leader Holbert and Representatives Titone & Lontine

This bill creates the Community Revitalization Grant Program to support creative projects in commercial centers that will combine revitalized or newly constructed commercial spaces with public or community spaces. Projects could include flexible live-work or vendor spaces for entrepreneurs, performance spaces, child care centers, meeting spaces for community events, and other projects that renovate vacant property for creative industries, economic development, or historic preservation purposes.

^{*}[HB21-1288: Colorado Startup Loan Program](#), by Representatives Bacon & Duran and Senator Coleman

The pandemic impacted communities across our state in different ways and perpetuated the historic and systemic barriers communities of color face in starting and maintaining small businesses. To help mitigate these effects, this bill provides \$30 million in ongoing lending capital to entrepreneurs who face barriers accessing traditional sources of capital as well as to businesses wishing to restart or reorganize after facing pandemic-related financial challenges.

[^][SB21-291: Federal Stimulus Economic Recovery And Relief](#), by Senate Majority Leader Fenberg & Senate Minority Leader Holbert and Representatives Roberts & Van Winkle

This bill, which is part of the Building Back Stronger federal stimulus plan, allocates \$40 million for small business economic development following the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as \$10 million to incentivize small business development in rural Colorado and those that hire remote employees in rural areas of the state. The bill also sets aside \$848 million for future economic relief and stimulus efforts based on how the state recovers and what gaps remain in the coming year, to be informed by a robust interim process.

[^][HB21-1263: Meeting And Events Incentive Program](#), by Representatives Roberts & Soper and Senators Rodriguez & Hisey

Recognizing the pandemic's devastating impact on the tourism, hospitality, and special events industries, this bill creates and invests \$10 million into the Meeting & Events Incentive Program within the Colorado Tourism Office. The program will incentivize events to come to Colorado, bolstering the economy and supporting thousands of jobs and small businesses across the state.

^{*}[HB21-1285: Funding To Support Creative Arts Industries](#), by Representatives Benavidez & Herod and Senators Jaquez Lewis & Buckner

Venues, artists, musicians, and so many other culturally vital organizations have struggled through the last year. This bill provides \$23 million to support artists and cultural organizations that have been impacted by COVID-19 throughout the state.

[^][HB21-1027: Continue Alcohol Beverage Takeout And Delivery](#), by Representatives Roberts & Larson and Senators Bridges & Priola

Colorado's bars and restaurants were among the hardest hit by the pandemic, and many have relied on the 2020 law allowing them to sell alcohol as part of takeout and delivery orders to make ends meet. This bill extends that law through 2023 and gives licensees the ability to establish outdoor common consumption areas.

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Modernizing Transportation and Infrastructure

[SB21-260: Sustainability Of The Transportation System](#), by Senate Majority Leader Fenberg & Senator Winter and House Speaker Garnett & Representative Gray

Supported by a large, bipartisan coalition, this historic transportation package dedicates \$5.3 billion in funding over the next decade to fix roads and bridges, improve transit options, meet Colorado's climate goals, and future-proof the state's transportation system. The funding will come from a fair and responsible mix of state, federal, and user-generated fee revenue. Overall, the bill will create a sustainable funding source for transportation infrastructure that will support a dynamic economy, improve air quality, create jobs, and ensure Colorado is positioned to compete.

[SB21-238: Create Front Range Passenger Rail District](#), by Senate President Garcia & Senator Zenzinger and House Majority Leader Esgar & Representative Gray

For decades Colorado's transportation infrastructure has been notably underfunded, an issue that has only intensified with the significant population increase over recent years. Coloradans want a broader range of options to get where they need to go. The bill creates the Front Range Passenger Rail District to research, develop, construct, operate, finance, and maintain the rail system and instructs them to work collaboratively with RTD as well as Amtrak to ensure interconnectedness and compatibility with existing services and projects.

[^SB21-110: Fund Safe Revitalization Of Main Streets](#), by Senators Zenzinger & Priola and Representatives Herod & Exum

This bill allocates \$30 million to shovel-ready transportation projects in municipalities across the state, to get Colorado back to work while simultaneously improving local transportation infrastructure.

[^*HB21-1289: Funding For Broadband Deployment](#), by Representatives Kennedy & Baisley and Senators Bridges & Priola

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the necessity of reliable broadband access for every Colorado household. As part of the Colorado Comeback state stimulus package, this bill provides \$75 million to increase internet access across the state through the deployment of devices, and the development of middle and last-mile infrastructure to support essential services like telehealth.

[SB21-060: Expand Broadband Service](#), by Senator Donovan and Representative Roberts

This bill provides targeted financial support to help connect rural and low-income Coloradans and work to ensure that Coloradans have access to the internet, wherever they live in our state.

[^HB21-1109: Broadband Board Changes To Expand Broadband Service](#), by Representatives Titone & Soper and Senators Bridges & Coram

Access to reliable broadband has become a necessity for everyday life - for education, health care, commerce and much more. This bill helps to prioritize grant proposals before the Broadband Deployment Board that provide high-speed internet access to low-income households and creates a process for encouraging proposals for critically unserved areas of the state.

Supporting Colorado Families and Workers

[HB21-1311: Colorado Families Tax Fairness Plan](#), by Representatives Sirota & Weissman and Senators Hansen & Moreno

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This bill will boost the incomes of over 300,000 hardworking Coloradans by increasing the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and by funding the state's Child Tax Credit, which was created in 2013 but has never been funded. The bill limits tax breaks for the wealthiest individuals and large corporations in order to provide broad tax relief to large numbers of hardworking Coloradans and small businesses.

[SB21-087: Agricultural Workers' Rights](#), by Senators Danielson & Moreno and Representatives McCormick and Caraveo

For generations, our agricultural workers have not benefited from the same rights and protections as other workers. This bill establishes the "Agricultural Workers' Bill of Rights" that expands protections regarding break times, overtime pay, access to clean water, and health and safety protections for agricultural workers. Additionally, the bill limits the continuous operation of physically demanding tools that lead to chronic health problems – practices that have already been outlawed in states like Texas, California, Arizona, and New Mexico.

[^][HB21-1290: Additional Funding For Just Transition](#), by House Majority Leader Esgar & Representative Will and Senate Majority Leader Fenberg & Senator Rankin

As our state transitions to renewable energy, we must also make critical investments in the workers and communities whose jobs and livelihoods are impacted as a result of this shift in the energy economy. This bill provides \$15 million in support for coal transition communities, \$8 million of which is dedicated to economic development in these communities and \$7 million is dedicated to workforce initiatives to directly assist coal transition workers and their families.

^{*}[SB21-027: Emergency Supplies For Colorado Babies And Families](#), by Senators Pettersen & Danielson and Representatives Tipper & Gonzales-Gutierrez

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused economic turmoil for thousands of Coloradans, leaving families struggling to afford basic needs like food and diapers. This bill provides \$2 million in funding for diapering essentials for low-income families and \$5 million for food pantries to help serve Coloradans across the state.

[^][SB21-236: Increase Capacity Early Childhood Care & Education](#), by Senators Story & Sonnenberg and Representatives Tipper & Van Beber

Early childhood education is a critical foundation for children, but the pandemic has disrupted both educators' ability to teach and children's ability to learn. This bill invests in programs to increase capacity in early childhood; incentivize high-quality child care at or near parents' places of work; and improve recruitment, retention, compensation, and mental wellness support for early childhood educators.

[SB21-201: Stricter Transparency & Enforcement In Child Care](#), by Senators Danielson & Pettersen and Representatives Young & Boesenecker

Parents must have the tools they need to protect their kids. This bill will help provide some of those tools by requiring the Department of Human Services to publish the information of child care facilities operating outside of any exemptions provided for by law, as well as the number of cease and desist orders against all childcare facilities online.

[^][HB21-1094: Foster Youth In Transition Program](#), by Representatives Daugherty & Van Beber and Senators Zenzinger & Rankin

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Recognizing the immense challenges foster youth face when exiting foster care, particularly in the wake of the pandemic, this bill allows youth who were previously in foster care on or after their 16th birthday to voluntarily re-enter foster care up until their 21st birthday, providing access to services including housing and employment support, economic assistance, and mental and substance use disorder treatment services.

[^][SB21-290: Security For Colorado Seniors](#), by Senators Danielson & Buckner and Representatives Young & Bradfield

This bill dedicates \$15 million to support Colorado's aging population by expanding housing assistance, increasing access to health services, subsidizing nutrition programs, and improving transportation opportunities to medical appointments.

[^][SB21-292: Federal COVID Funding For Victim's Services](#), sponsored by Senators Winter & Rankin and Representatives Duran & Carver

This bill supports victims of domestic violence by allocating \$15 million across various programs including programs that: protect victims who may be at risk if their address is public; provide grants to local nonprofits for rapid rehousing, flexible financial assistance, and retrofitting of shelters for domestic violence victims; and provide crisis intervention services, victim services referrals, victim assistance programs, and counseling to those in need.

[SB21-148: Creation Of The Financial Empowerment Office](#), by Senators Gonzales & Kolker and House Majority Leader Esgar & Representative Tipper

This bill creates the Financial Empowerment Office to increase access to affordable financial products and resources like safe and secure banking, credit counseling, debt management, and access to capital, helping to dismantle systemic barriers to building wealth for low-income Coloradans and communities of color.

[^][HB21-1264: Workforce Development Funding to Increase Worker Skills](#), by Representatives Sullivan & Young and Senators Kolker & Hisey

This bill invests \$75 million into local workforce centers and nonprofits to provide Coloradans with reskilling, upskilling, and next-skilling training that leads to industry-recognized credentials and good job opportunities in high demand, growing industries. It also sets aside federal funding for future, transformational workforce solutions to be developed through a robust interim process.

[HB21-1007: State Apprenticeship Agency](#), by Representatives Sullivan & Ortiz and Senators Danielson & Rodriguez

In order to connect Colorado's workers with high paying and sustainable careers, the bill creates a state apprenticeship agency to promote, oversee, and provide technical assistance for high quality apprenticeship programs across the state.

[^][SB21-231: Energy Office Weatherization Assistance Grants](#), by Senators Story & Hisey and Representatives Hooton & Weissman

This bill provides \$3 million to boost the Weatherization Assistance Program, which offers free home weatherization and energy-efficiency support to low-income residents.

[^][SB21-232: Displaced Workers Grant](#), by Senators Zenzinger & Kirkmeyer and Representatives Kipp & Bird

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One of the top priorities of this stimulus package is getting Coloradans back to work, and one of the most efficient ways to do that is by investing in displaced workers who have completed a portion of their higher education but not earned a credential. This bill provides grants through the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative to provide thousands of workers who were laid off or furloughed, experienced decreased wages, or had a job offer rescinded with the skills, supports and credentials necessary to secure good jobs.

[*HB21-1270: SNAP Employment First Workforce Development](#), by Representatives Exum & Caraveo and Senators Fields & Kirkmeyer

To help get Coloradans back on their feet, this bill provides \$6 million for employment, job retention, and skills training services to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants through Colorado's Employment First program. The funds may also be used to support work based learning opportunities and expanding third party partnerships to increase the program's outreach.

[^HB21-1105: Low-income Utility Payment Assistance Contributions](#), by Representative Kennedy and Senators Hansen & Priola

The pandemic brought to light the lack of basic resources too many Coloradans face in making ends meet. This bill expands eligibility for low-income utility assistance programs and creates a sustainable funding mechanism to support utility bill payment assistance, weatherization retrofits, and a cross enrollment with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to maximize the number of Coloradans who can access these programs.

[^SB21-039: Elimination Of Subminimum Wage Employment](#), by Senators Zenzinger & Hisey and Representatives Caraveo & Pelton

Our intellectually and developmentally disabled residents are a valuable asset to our community and our workforce, but current law allows them to be paid well below the minimum wage. This bipartisan bill will phase out the subminimum wage allowance and help ensure employees are paid a fair wage for their work, regardless of their disability.

[HB21-1072: Equal Access Services For Out-of-home Placements](#), by Representative Froelich and Senators Fields & Jaquez Lewis

LGBTQ youth face barriers to critical out-of-home placement services, sometimes being denied services altogether. The bill prohibits adoption agencies and foster youth service providers from discriminating against LGBTQ youth or prospective adoptive or foster parents, and requires that out-of-home placement be provided in a way that is equitable and culturally responsive.

[HB21-1150: Create The Colorado Office Of New Americans](#), by Representative Jodeh and Senator Gonzales

This bill creates the Colorado Office of New Americans to support the prosperity of Colorado immigrants and refugees, serving as a central location for state programs, initiatives, and policies aimed at ensuring immigrant and refugee communities have equal access to programs and services. The Office will help facilitate successful economic, social, linguistic, and cultural integration so that every person in every corner of our state can thrive.

[HB21-1194: Immigration Legal Defense Fund](#), by Representatives Tipper & Ricks and Senator Moreno

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Between 2007 and 2021, only 5 percent of immigration cases were won without an attorney. This bill creates the Immigration Legal Defense Fund to administer grants to nonprofit organizations that provide legal advice, counseling, and representation for clients appearing in immigration court.

[SB21-199: Remove Barriers To Certain Public Opportunities](#), by Senators Winter & Jaquez Lewis and House Majority Leader Esgar & Representative Gonzales-Gutierrez

In 2007, the General Assembly passed several laws that failed to recognize the value that immigrants bring to our economy and our society. SB21-199 rolls back these laws and affirmatively states that qualified individuals may apply for state and local public benefits without proof of lawful presence.

Investing in Students, Educators, and Schools

[HB21-1304: Early Childhood System](#), by Representative Sirota & House Speaker Garnett and Senator Buckner & Senate Majority Leader Fenberg

For decades, early childhood advocates have pointed to the difficulty of navigating our fragmented systems of early childhood. This bill creates the Department of Early Childhood as a new, cabinet-level state agency to streamline existing and new funding sources coming in part from the passage of Proposition EE, as well as lay the foundation for universal pre-K. Doing so will promote equitable and efficient delivery of resources while reducing duplicative oversight and administrative burden on families and providers alike.

[^][SB21-268: Public School Finance](#), by Senators Zenzinger & Lundeen and Representatives McLachlan & McCluskie

After a year of frequent and sustained disruptions to in-person learning that have laid bare long-standing inequities in our public schools, this year's School Finance Act invests more resources into schools serving low-income and immigrant students. The bill restores cuts made last year due to the pandemic, funds a number of targeted grant programs, and makes long-sought changes to the school finance formula to direct additional resources to schools that serve higher populations of at-risk students and English language learners.

[HB21-1164: Total Program Mill Levy Tax Credit](#), by House Majority Leader Esgar & House Speaker Garnett and Senator Zenzinger & Senate Majority Leader Fenberg

This bill will channel millions of dollars into Colorado's school districts. Between 1994-2002, taxpayers across the state voted to bypass TABOR-imposed caps on school district revenue, but the Colorado Department of Education incorrectly interpreted TABOR and artificially required school districts to collect less revenue. The result has been escalating inequities in school funding across the state, and precious state dollars used to backfill wealthy districts while the overall system remains severely underfunded. HB21-1164 formed the basis of a constitutional question for the Colorado Supreme Court, seeking to align Colorado's property tax system with original voter intent in local school districts' "de-Brucing" elections. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the bill sponsors' interpretation of the law, and the result will be \$94 million in increased local revenue for school districts in the coming year.

^{^*}[HB21-1234: High-Impact Tutoring](#), by Representatives Tipper & Bradfield and Senators Moreno & Rankin

Data consistently demonstrates that high-impact tutoring, when administered during the school day to groups of four or fewer students by the same qualified tutor at least three times per week, is one of the most effective interventions to raise student achievement. This bill creates and puts \$5 million towards

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the Colorado High Impact Tutoring Program, designed to address learning loss after more than a year of learning disruptions due to the pandemic.

[^*SB21-202: Public School Air Quality Improvement Grants](#), by Senators Moreno & Lundeen and Representatives Sirota & Larson

Kids learn better in environments that are safe, clean, and healthy. Unfortunately, Colorado's deferred maintenance of school facilities has grown over the years, particularly in rural areas. This bill allocates \$10 million for Building Excellent Schools Today Act grants to fund much-needed public school air quality improvement projects to improve air quality in public school facilities.

[SB21-057: Private Lenders Of Student Loans Practices](#), by Senators Winter & Gonzales and Representatives Gray & Gonzales-Gutierrez

Statewide, Colorado borrowers currently owe \$9.1 billion in private student loan debt and that number is growing as the private student loan market grows. High rates of debt accumulation, especially as the cost of college has risen, widens an already large intergenerational debt and wealth gap between families of color and white families. This bill seeks to provide protections – similar to the protections granted for federal loans – to students who take out private loans for postsecondary education.

[SB21-013: Reversing COVID-related Learning Loss](#), by Senator Fields and Representatives Bacon & Froelich

Despite the best efforts of parents, educators and school administrators, many K-12 students are now behind in learning due to the pandemic, and it's worse for our students of color and those of lower socioeconomic status. This bill seeks to fill in these gaps by directing the Department of Education to collect and share best practices on reversing student learning loss from communities across the state, which will urgently address our children's educational needs.

[SB21-255: Free Menstrual Hygiene Products To Students](#), by Senator Winter and Representatives Herod & Titone

This bill will allow every Title I school to apply for grant funding from the Colorado Department of Education for distributing tampons and pads to students, or for installation and maintenance of easily accessible machines.

[SB21-029: Colorado American Indian Tribes In-state Tuition](#), by Senate Majority Leader Fenberg and Representative Benavidez & House Speaker Garnett

Historically, America has marginalized, neglected, and disregarded our nation's indigenous peoples, and failed to educate about the atrocities committed against them. To continue our work of rectifying injustices toward Native Americans, this bill will require Colorado universities and colleges to offer in-state tuition to members of Native American tribes with historical ties to Colorado.

[SB21-172: Educator Pay Raise Fund](#), by Senate President Garcia & Senator Danielson and Representatives Gonzales-Gutierrez & Ortiz

Colorado educators have long been overworked and underpaid. If a majority of voters approve a statewide ballot measure in the next six years to raise money for educator pay, the bill will create the Educator Pay Raise Fund to assist school districts, charter schools, and boards of cooperative educational services in increasing teacher salaries and wages paid to other employees.

[^SB21-185: Supporting Educator Workforce In Colorado](#), by Senators Zenzinger & Rankin and Representatives McLachlan & McCluskie

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This bill seeks to address the teacher shortage in Colorado by elevating the teaching profession, empowering local leaders to recruit subject matter experts into the educator workforce, developing a workforce that more closely reflects the diversity of students, and expanding pathways into teaching.

[HB21-1173: Prohibiting Legacy Preferences In Higher Ed Institutions](#), by Representatives **Mullica & Gray and Senators **Pettersen & Bridges****

Historically, higher education institutions consider an applicant's relationships to alumni of the university during the admissions process. This bill makes Colorado the first state in the country to end legacy college admissions at public institutions of higher education, increasing equity and access for first-generation students.

[HB21-1067: College Admission Use Of National Test Score](#), by Representatives **Kipp & Exum and Senators **Story & Buckner****

This bill breaks down barriers for students and brings greater equity to our college admissions process by removing the requirement that Colorado colleges and universities require national assessment test scores like the SAT and ACT as an eligibility criterion for admission.

[^HB21-1200: Revise Student Financial Literacy Standards](#), by Representatives **Kipp & Rich and Senators **Bridges & Lundeen****

This bill improves financial literacy standards so that students have the tools they need to access financial aid and plan for the cost of higher education, manage debt, save for retirement, and achieve financial stability as they navigate adulthood.

[^*HB21-1104: Educator Licensure Renewal Period](#) by Representatives **McLachlan & Larson and Senators **Zenzinger & Lundeen****

Colorado's educators have been through an extraordinarily difficult year, and easing some of the burdens on their profession is a simple way to help retain and support them in our classrooms. This bill extends the renewal period for professional educator licenses without lowering the standards or requirements for licensure.

[^HB21-1161: Suspend Statewide Assessments For Select Grades](#), by Representatives **Sirota & McLachlan and Senators **Zenzinger & Coram****

After an extremely challenging year for our students and educators, this bill eases the standardized testing burden while still complying with federal guidance and providing data on achievement levels, allowing teachers and school districts to focus more time on addressing student learning loss.

[HB21-1010: Diverse K-12 Educator Workforce Report](#), by Representatives **Ricks & Gonzales-Gutierrez and Senator **Fields****

A diverse educator workforce that reflects the identities of the students they teach can have an important impact on learning. This bill takes a significant step toward improving Colorado's educator diversity by creating a workgroup that would research ways to prepare, retain, and recruit educators from diverse backgrounds and make further policy recommendations to the legislature.

[^HB21-1259: Extended Learning Opportunities](#), by Representative **Bacon and Senators **Fields & Sonnenberg****

Without targeting resources to Colorado students, disrupted learning could become one of the long-lasting impacts of this pandemic. This bill streamlines the application process and reporting

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requirements for school districts seeking funding to provide students with extended learning opportunities such as summer school and tutoring.

[^HB21-1103: Media Literacy Implementation](#), by Representatives Cutter & McLachlan and Senators Pettersen & Coram

For today's students, parsing through the barrage of content on the internet to discern trustworthy and reliable sources is daunting, and yet our democracy depends on our ability to do so. This bill directs the state board of education to ensure media literacy is incorporated into reading, writing, and civics standards, and creates an online resource bank of materials related to media literacy for educators to teach.

Making Housing Attainable

[^*HB21-1329: Federal Stimulus Investment in Affordable Housing](#) by Representatives Gonzales-Gutierrez & Woodrow and Senator Gonzales & Senate Minority Leader Holbert

The federal stimulus presents an opportunity to create transformational change in some of the most pressing challenges in our state, such as the lack of affordable housing. This bill channels \$550 million in federal stimulus funds toward affordable housing efforts, immediately investing \$98.5 million to deploy affordable housing development efforts and \$1.5 million for eviction legal defense, while setting aside the remainder for future transformational housing solutions to be developed through a robust interim process.

[SB21-173: Rights In Residential Lease Agreements](#), by Senators Gonzales & Moreno and Representatives Caraveo & Gonzales-Gutierrez

Colorado ranks in the bottom 10 states in the country for renter protections. This bill works to expand protections for tenants by requiring landlords to include information about late fees in leases, limiting late fees on unpaid rent, preventing evictions solely on the basis of unpaid late fees, allowing a grace period before they can be incurred, and allowing renters to pay unpaid rent at any time during the eviction process. The bill also puts critical guardrails around due process for renters in the eviction court process.

[HB21-1117: Local Governments Promote Affordable Housing Units](#) by Representatives Lontine & Gonzales-Gutierrez and Senators Gonzales & Rodriguez

To help address the state's affordable housing crisis, this bill gives a wider array of tools to local governments to work with developers and other housing providers to develop new affordable housing units.

[HB21-1121: Residential Tenancy Procedures](#) by Representatives Jackson & Jodeh and Senator Gonzales

To help keep Coloradans housed and create more fairness between landlords and tenants, this bill provides renters with additional time before law enforcement can assist in an eviction. It also prohibits residential landlords from increasing rent more than once in a 12-month period and increases the notification timeline for rent increases when there is not a written lease.

[*HB21-1271: Innovative Affordable Housing Strategies](#) by Representatives McCluskie & Jodeh and Senator Gonzales

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Local governments are on the forefront of addressing affordable housing needs, but often lack the tools and resources to increase the available housing stock. This bill provides \$48 million in incentives and technical assistance to local governments to assist in the rapid deployment of affordable housing projects and to ensure communities across the state have the tools and resources to identify and meet their unique housing needs.

[^HB21-1274: Use Unused State Property for Housing & Renewable Energy](#), by Representative Titone and Senators Zenzinger & Hisey

To ensure our state is maximizing its assets to the greatest extent possible, this bill would survey all unused state-owned property for potential use for affordable housing, renewable energy projects, residential behavioral health care facilities, or child care facilities.

[*SB21-242: Hotels Tenancy Support Program](#), by Senators Gonzales & Pettersen and Representatives Gonzales-Gutierrez & Woodrow

Thousands of Coloradans lack stable housing, an issue that will continue to worsen due to the pandemic unless action is taken. This bill creates a \$30 million grant program for local governments and local nonprofit partners to rent, purchase, or renovate underutilized hotels and motels to house individuals experiencing homelessness, providing housing stability to help them get back on their feet.

[HB21-1282: Add Consumer Protections Related to Mortgage Servicers](#), by Representative Weissman and Senator Gonzales

Recognizing the evolution of mortgage services since the 2008 financial collapse, this bill will further regulate mortgage servicers to improve consumer protections, including strengthening requirements around notification, record keeping, inspections and enforcement, and expands the ability to act on complaints and crack down on bad actors.

[^HB21-1134: Building Credit Through Rental Payments](#) by Representatives Ricks & Bradfield and Senator Bridges

Insufficient credit history can be a significant barrier for Coloradans seeking to lease or purchase a home or access other types of capital. This bill creates a pilot program that would allow participating Coloradans to opt to have their rental payments reported to credit agencies, helping them build credit histories and improve their credit scores.

[HB21-1054: Housing Public Benefit Verification Requirement](#), by Representative Jackson and Senator Gonzales

This bill removes a restriction that keeps some taxpaying immigrant families from accessing housing, helping address Colorado's housing crisis while also supporting our local economies, landlords, and employers by ensuring workers can afford to live near their places of work.

Making Health Care More Affordable and Accessible

[SB21-175: Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board](#), by Senators Jaquez Lewis & Gonzales and Representatives Caraveo & Kennedy

As prescription drug costs continue to skyrocket, Coloradans are having to make impossible choices between buying their needed medicine or paying rent and buying groceries. This bill will improve access to affordable health care by establishing the Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board,

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which will convene a panel of experts to investigate prescription drug costs, and set guardrails on purchase prices for the most expensive prescription drugs in the state.

[HB21-1232: Standardized Health Benefit Plan Colorado Option](#) by Representatives Roberts & Jodeh and Senator Donovan

To bring more affordable health insurance options to Coloradans in the individual and small group market, this landmark legislation requires health insurance carriers to offer a standardized health plan that is cheaper by 15 percent over three years – meaning Colorado consumers will have a new insurance option that covers the services they need at a lower cost. The standardized plan must address historical health inequities, and it will lower out-of-pocket costs for consumers.

[SB21-009: Reproductive Health Care Program](#), by Senator Jaquez Lewis and Representative Caraveo

The bill will increase access to reproductive health care services for Coloradans across the state, regardless of citizenship status, by providing contraceptives and counseling services without prior authorization or co-pays to eligible individuals.

[^SB21-025: Family Planning Service For Eligible Individuals](#), by Senators Pettersen & Coram and Representatives Tipper & Will

This bill seeks to assist those who want to plan for a family by providing counseling services, contraceptives, and health care coverage information to eligible individuals, allowing them to make the best decisions for themselves and their families.

[SB21-193: Protection Of Pregnant People In Perinatal Period](#), by Senator Buckner and Representative Herod

This bill requires the Colorado Civil Rights Commission to receive reports regarding culturally incongruent maternal care provided to pregnant women or those in postpartum care. Additionally, the bill extends the statute of limitations for actions alleging lack of informed consent in cases related to a pregnant person, and adds protections for pregnant people in jails and state correctional facilities.

[SB21-194: Maternal Health Providers](#), by Senator Buckner and Representative Herod

This bill requires insurance carriers as well as state insurance plans to reimburse health care providers for services related to labor and delivery in a way that promotes high-quality, cost-effective care, prevents risk in subsequent pregnancies, and does not discriminate based on the type of provider or facility. Additionally, the bill seeks to amend the State Medicaid Plan to provide 12 months of postpartum medical benefits to people who received these benefits during pregnancy.

[SB21-142: Health Care Access In Cases Of Rape Or Incest](#), by Senators Pettersen & Donovan and Representatives Caraveo & McCluskie

Under current law, survivors of sexual violence who are Medicaid patients face hurdles when seeking abortion care, including restrictions on the types of health care facilities and medical professionals that they can access. This bill lifts these medically unnecessary restrictions, helping victims of rape or incest access the health care services they need closer to home.

[SB21-016: Protecting Preventive Health Care Coverage](#), by Senators Pettersen & Moreno and House Majority Leader Esgar & Representative Mullica

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Preventative healthcare screenings can significantly increase life expectancy and create long-term insurance savings, but many screenings aren't covered by typical health plans, leaving consumers to bear the cost or forgo them entirely. This bill helps ensure that several preventative health care services – including screenings for osteoporosis, urinary incontinence, and STIs – are covered by health plans so that Coloradans can get the preventive care they need.

[^SB21-123: Expand Canadian Rx Import Program](#), by Senators Ginal & Coram and Representatives McCormick & Lynch

It is no secret that prescription drugs in this country are overpriced and financially untenable for too many. Coloradans pay 60% to 85% more than people living in other countries for the same prescription drugs. In 2019, the General Assembly made Colorado a leader as one of the first states to adopt a Canadian Prescription Drug Importation Program. This bill seeks to build on that progress by extending the program to nations other than just Canada, so that we can continue working to ensure that every Coloradan has access to affordable life-saving prescription drugs.

[SB21-158: Increase Medical Providers For Senior Citizens](#), by Senators Danielson & Pettersen and Representatives Titone & Duran

Seniors across the state often struggle to access the care they need, which can have serious impacts on their long-term health. This bill seeks to address this issue by expanding the availability of geriatric care providers in shortage areas in the state through the Colorado Health Services Corps program, helping seniors avoid having to travel long distances or forgo care altogether.

[^SB21-181 Equity Strategic Plan Address Health Disparities](#), by Senators Fields & Coram and Representatives Herod & Caraveo

Social determinants such as zip code, ethnicity, income, food, and housing too often lead to significant health disparities and result in people of color being disproportionately impacted by sickness and instability. This bill establishes the Health Disparities and Community Grant Program to help address these systemic inequities and social determinants of health, reducing the risk of future disease and health conditions in underrepresented populations.

[HB21-1005: Health Care Services Reserve Corps Task Force](#), by Representatives Mullica & Caraveo and Senate President Garcia

The pandemic highlighted capacity challenges in our health care system, as medical professionals worked around the clock to care for COVID-19 patients. This bill lays the foundation to help ensure Colorado's health care workforce is ready to meet the challenges of the future by initiating the creation of the Colorado Health Care Service Reserve Corps, which would be ready to support Colorado during future health crises.

[HB21-1307: Prescription Insulin Pricing And Access](#), by Representative Roberts and Senators Donovan & Jaquez Lewis

This bill continues our work to increase access to life-saving insulin by clarifying the existing \$100 cap on a person's monthly insulin supply and allowing eligible consumers to access one emergency prescription insulin supply for no more than \$35 per 12-month period. Finally, it creates the Insulin Affordability Program in the Division of Insurance to help eligible individuals obtain prescription insulin for \$50 a month for 12 months.

[^HB21-1237: Competitive Pharmacy Benefits Manager Marketplace](#), by Representatives Lontine & Rich and Senators Moreno & Kirkmeyer

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To reduce prescription drug costs for Coloradans and save our state money on the prescription drug plans it purchases, this bill establishes a competitive marketplace for the state or private employers to select pharmacy benefit managers.

[HB21-1198: Health-care Billing Requirements For Indigent Patients](#), by Representative Jodeh and Senators Buckner & Kolker

This bill helps protect low-income Coloradans from crippling medical debt by ensuring hospitals screen patients for potential financial assistance through a variety of programs, cracking down on predatory billing practices and raising the bar for initiating collection actions, and ensuring all patients have access to information about their rights when seeking emergency care.

[^][HB21-1107: Protections For Public Health Department Workers](#), by Representatives Caraveo & Carver and Senators Bridges & Lundeen

Unfortunately, during the pandemic some public health workers have been subject to threats and “doxxing,” where an individual’s personal information such as home address are posted online. This bill adds critical anti-doxxing protections for public health workers to help protect them and their families from threats of harm or injury.

[^][HB21-1133: Joey’s Law](#), by Representatives Mullica & Jodeh and Senators Pettersen & Priola

To dismantle the stigma surrounding epilepsy or other seizure disorders and to protect children, this bill requires public schools where a student has a known seizure disorder to designate at least one educator to get trained in seizure response. It would also encourage parents with students who have a seizure disorder to submit a seizure action plan to the school.

Addressing Behavioral and Mental Health

^{*}[SB21-137: Behavioral Health Recovery Act](#), by Senators Pettersen & Winter and Representatives Michaelson Jenet & Kennedy

The pandemic and its accompanying economic recession have taken a toll on Coloradans, with mental health challenges and substance use disorders disproportionately impacting people of color and people who live and work in frontier and rural communities. This bill seeks to rectify these issues by investing \$114 million in various behavioral health grant programs to assist providers, nonprofits and local governments address substance abuse, maternal and child health, and other behavioral health prevention and treatment programs around the state. It also creates the Behavioral and Mental Health Cash Fund to be used in the future for transformational investments in addressing the state’s mental health and substance use disorder crisis.

^{*}[SB21-239: 2-1-1 Statewide Human Services Referral System](#), by Senators Kolker & Zenzinger and Representatives Amabile & Young

As our lives have been disrupted by the pandemic, schools, employers, and health care providers are reporting an uptick in the number of individuals who require mental health care and support. This bill transfers \$1 million to the Department of Human Services to expand the Colorado 2-1-1 resource hotline to include referrals for mental health services and other resources for Coloradans, particularly for individuals who are unemployed.

[^][SB21-154: 988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline Network](#), by Senators Kolker & Simpson and Representatives Cutter & Soper

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Mental health *is* health care, and people need to know that they can and should seek help in times of crisis. This bill creates an emergency hotline for mental health and suicide prevention, aligning Colorado with the nationally designated three-digit response number, 9-8-8. Implementation of 9-8-8 will improve access to behavioral health crisis services – especially for underserved populations – as well as reduce stigma surrounding suicide, mental health, and substance use conditions.

[^SB21-011: Pharmacist Prescribe Dispense Opiate Antagonist](#), by Senator Fields and Representatives Mullica & Pelton

The opioid epidemic plaguing our nation is running rampant in Colorado. This practice of over-prescribing perpetuates a toxic system of addiction and dependency that too often results in death, and has caused thousands of lives to be ruined across the state. This bill requires pharmacists who prescribe opioids to notify patients of the dangers of these drugs, and if appropriate, prescribe an opioid antagonist in the event that the patient overdoses on their medications – a much-needed life-saving measure.

[^HB21-1068: Insurance Coverage Mental Health Wellness Exam](#), by Representatives Michaelson Jenet & Titone and Senators Moreno & Smallwood

This bill will make Colorado the first state in the country to require health insurance plans to cover an annual mental health wellness exam, taking a bold step to improve access to critical preventative health care in Colorado.

[^HB21-1021: Peer Support Professionals Behavioral Health](#), by Representatives Caraveo & Pelton and Senators Zenzinger & Hisey

This bill supports Coloradans suffering from behavioral health issues by increasing access to peer-support professionals - people with lived experiences who help others experiencing similar situations improve their conditions, typically in connection to substance abuse or trauma. Peer support services provide treatment outside of a clinical setting to help people experiencing behavioral health conditions.

[^*HB21-1258: Rapid Mental Health Response For Colorado Youth](#), by Representatives Michaelson Jenet & Van Winkle and Senators Buckner & Woodward

To prepare children for the return to in-person learning, this act creates a temporary youth mental health services program in the Office of Behavioral Health to facilitate access to mental health services for identified needs, including those that may have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. The program would provide any young person age 18 and under with an online mental health screening and would then reimburse providers for up to three mental health sessions.

[^HB21-1097: Establish Behavioral Health Administration](#), by Representatives Young & Pelton and Senators Fields & Gardner

Creates the Behavioral Health Administration to help ensure that every Coloradan experiencing behavioral health needs has access to timely, high-quality services in their communities that they can afford. It tasks the Department of Human Services with creating a plan for a single state entity that would administer and oversee behavioral health programs in Colorado.

[^HB21-1119: Suicide Prevention, Intervention, & Postvention](#), by Representatives Daugherty & Rich and Senators Donovan & Coram

To address Colorado's alarmingly high teen suicide rates over the last several years, this bill expands the Crisis and Suicide Training Grant Program to include "train-the-trainer" programs at public schools

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and funds peer-to-peer specialist programs that help students support their classmates. The bill also incorporates postvention and follow-up care into the state's comprehensive suicide prevention approach to support individuals and communities in the aftermath of a suicide attempt.

[^HB21-1166: Behavioral Health Crisis Response Training](#), by Representatives Young & Will and Senator Ginal

To ensure that the most vulnerable Coloradans get the care that they need, this bill requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to provide virtual training on a comprehensive care coordination and treatment model for professionals who work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and co-occurring behavioral health needs.

[^HB21-1281: Community Behavioral Health Disaster Program](#), by Representatives Cutter & Will and Senator Pettersen

To help Coloradans overcome the challenges from COVID-19 and help prepare for future disasters such as wildfires, this bill creates the Community Behavioral Health Disaster Preparedness and Response Program to enhance, support, and formalize behavioral health disaster preparedness and response activities of community behavioral health organizations.

[^HB21-1317: Regulating Marijuana Concentrates](#), by House Speaker Garnett & Representative Caraveo and Senators Hansen & Lundeen

Colorado laws and regulations have failed to keep up with the evolution of marijuana products. As the market of marijuana concentrates continues to grow, this bill seeks to curb youth access to the highest potency THC products by reducing the daily purchase limit of medical marijuana concentrates, requiring timely reporting to the seed-to-sale tracking system, revamping consumer education, and strengthening the doctor-patient relationship for 18-20 year old medical marijuana patients. This bill also invests in first-in-the-nation research into the impact of high-potency THC on the developing brain and on physical and mental health.

Tackling Climate Change and Protecting Our Environment

[HB21-1266: Environmental Justice for Disproportionately Impacted Communities](#), by Representatives Jackson & Weissman and Senators Winter & Buckner

Colorado leads the nation on many environmental efforts and this bill helps ensure we will meet our emissions reduction goals while providing a voice to communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change. This bill directs more resources to communities in transition away from fossil fuels, increases the focus on disproportionately impacted populations, eliminates the "polluter pay loophole" that exempts greenhouse gas emissions from pollution fees, and advances environmental justice in various state agency rulemakings. Importantly, the bill empowers Colorado's air regulators with enforcement mechanisms to ensure the energy, utility, and industries meet the state's greenhouse gas emissions goals.

[^*HB21-1253: Renewable And Clean Energy Project Grants](#), by Representatives Froelich & Gray and Senators Winter & Rankin

As part of the Colorado Comeback state stimulus package, this bill invests \$5 million directly into local economies transitioning toward cleaner energy with grants to local governments for job-creating projects in the renewable energy sector.

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[HB21-1189: Regulate Air Toxics](#), by Representatives Benavidez & A. Valdez and Senators Gonzales & Moreno

Air toxins have been proven to cause cancer, reproductive health issues and ecological disasters, and neighboring communities have a right to know when facilities release dangerous pollutants into the air. This bill will require certain facilities to collect and publicly report real-time air monitoring data and fund community-based monitoring programs to better understand the cumulative health impacts of air toxics emissions. It also requires covered facilities to take corrective action within 15 days of an emissions violation and conduct outreach to neighboring communities, especially those disproportionately impacted by their operations.

Investments in Preventing and Responding to Wildfires

Last year, Colorado experienced one of the most devastating wildfire seasons in our state's history – worsening pollution, damaging natural resources, displacing wildlife, and hurting local economies. These bills dedicate over \$100 million to prevent and mitigate the destructive impact of wildfires in our state and help our natural environment recover from previous fires.

- **[^*SB21-258: Wildfire Risk Mitigation](#), by Senators Ginal & Rankin and Representatives Snyder & Froelich**
- **[^*SB21-240: Watershed Restoration Grant Program Stimulus](#), by Senators Danielson & Simpson and Representatives Kipp & Catlin**
- **[^SB21-113: Firefighting Aircraft Wildfire Mgmt And Response](#), by Senate Majority Leader Fenberg & Senator Rankin and Representatives McCluskie & Lynch**
- **[^SB21-054: Transfers For Wildfire Mitigation And Response](#) by Senators Hansen & Rankin and Representative McCluskie**
- **[^HB21-1261: Extend Beetle Kill Wood Products Sales Tax Exemption](#), by Representatives Cutter & Catlin and Senators Ginal & Coram**
- **[^HB21-1008: Forest Health Project Financing](#), by Representatives Arndt & Catlin and Senators Hansen & Cooke**

[*HB21-1149: Energy Sector Career Pathway In Higher Education](#), by Representatives Jackson & Titone and Senator Story

As part of the Colorado Comeback state stimulus package, this bill invests \$5 million to create and implement a career pathway for the clean energy sector, ensuring workers displaced by COVID-19 as well as communities of color have the tools they need for successful careers in green energy.

[*SB21-230: Transfer To Colorado Energy Office Energy Fund](#), by Senators Hansen & Winter and Representatives A. Valdez & Bernet

As part of the Colorado Comeback state stimulus package, this bill allocates \$40 million to the Colorado Energy Office for several clean energy finance initiatives that support clean energy retrofits, energy efficient new construction, clean energy lending and funding for the installation of EV charging stations at facilities across the state.

[^SB21-249: Keep Colorado Wild Annual Pass](#), by Senate Majority Leader Fenberg & Senator Donovan and Representatives Tipper & Will

Colorado's great outdoors and wildlife are among our most treasured resources. This bill ensures that all Coloradans have the opportunity to enjoy our open spaces while reducing fees to access our state parks and other public lands by creating an optional, discounted "Keep Colorado Wild Pass" when Coloradans register their vehicles, starting in 2023.

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Critical PUC Reforms to Reach Our Climate Goals

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) plays a critical role in helping our state transition to a renewable energy future and meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals. These bills advance solar energy; build much-needed capacity at the Commission; redirect the mission and focus of the commission to address climate action and environmental justice; transition Colorado to a regionally connected transmission system to provide more reliability and decrease costs for consumers; establish energy saving targets for natural gas; encourage energy efficiency programs; and support effective energy consumption management by utilities.

- **[^SB21-261: Public Utilities Commission Encourage Renewable Energy Generation](#)**, by Senate Majority Leader Fenberg & Senator Priola and Representatives A. Valdez & Amabile
- **[SB21-272: Measures To Modernize The Public Utilities Commission](#)**, by Senate Majority Leader Fenberg & Senator Hansen and Representative Bennett
- **[^SB21-072: Public Utilities Commission Modernize Electric Transmission Infrastructure](#)**, by Senators Hansen & Coram and Representatives A. Valdez & Catlin
- **[HB21-1238: Public Utilities Commission Modernization of Gas Utility Demand-Side Management Standards](#)**, by Representative Bennett and Senator Hansen

[SB21-264: Adopt Programs Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Utilities](#), by Senator Hansen and Representatives A. Valdez & Bennett

As one step toward meeting our climate goals, this bill seeks to capture and utilize methane that is currently leaking from agricultural operations, landfills, wastewater plants, and coalbeds, and simultaneously reduce the amount of methane leaking into our atmosphere and offset the need for additional fossil fuel extraction.

[^HB21-1286: Energy Performance For Buildings](#), by Representatives Kipp & A. Valdez and Senators Pettersen & Priola

This bill contributes to our climate goals by requiring owners of certain large commercial buildings to collect and report their energy use, and to meet new energy efficiency performance standards by 2026, a concept also known as “benchmarking.” This will help tenants and businesses save money on their energy costs while creating jobs for workers skilled in energy efficiency retrofits, mechanical system upgrades, electrical engineering, and recommissioning.

[SB21-246: Electric Utility Promote Beneficial Electrification](#), by Senate Majority Leader Fenberg and Representatives A. Valdez & Froelich

Voluntarily replacing appliances, furnaces, and water heaters that burn natural gas or propane with clean and efficient electric ones protects the air we breathe as well as our climate. Beneficial electrification also supports job growth for Colorado’s small businesses like contractors, plumbers, electricians, and HVAC suppliers.

[HB21-1303: Global Warming Potential For Public Project Materials](#), by Representatives Bennett & McLachlan and Senator Hansen

By being thoughtful about what building materials Colorado purchases for large public projects, we can use less of the fossil fuels that cause climate change. This bill, also known as the “Buy Clean Colorado Act,” requires state agencies to look at public infrastructure projects through the use of Environmental Product Declarations in specified bids and define policies that prioritize purchasing the cleanest material available.

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[HB21-1318: Create Outdoor Equity Grant Program](#), by Representatives Herod & Ortiz and Senate President Garcia & Senator Jaquez Lewis

Colorado's great outdoors are some of the most incredible places on earth, but too many of our youth are unable to experience our parks, trails and open spaces. This bill creates a grant program with revenue from the state lottery to support organizations that reduce barriers to Colorado's outdoors for underserved youth and their families.

[^][HB21-1223: Create Outdoor Recreation Industry Office](#), by Representatives McLachlan & Soper and Senators Story & Coram

This bill formally creates the Outdoor Recreation Industry Office in the Office of Economic Development to help cultivate, promote, and coordinate development of the outdoor recreation industry in Colorado. The Office will also partner with the outdoor recreation industry to help conserve our public lands, water, air and climate.

[^][HB21-1180: Measure to Increase Biomass Utilization](#), by Representatives D. Valdez & Will and Senator Coram

Biomass, organic material such as agricultural byproducts or wood, has the potential to improve soil health, benefit watersheds, aid in carbon sequestration and serve as a crucial forest fire prevention tool. This bill creates the Biomass Utilization Grant Program to support projects that help mitigate wildfires, or support agriculture production or energy generation.

[^][HB21-1208: Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise](#), by Representatives Cutter & Gray and Senators Priola & Winter

Climate change is exacerbating natural disasters, threatening homes and job-creating industries reliant on our beautiful environment. This bill will help local governments and communities reduce the threat and mitigate the impacts of climate-related natural disasters by establishing a small \$2 per year flat fee on some disaster-related insurance policies to create a Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise, which will help draw down three times as much federal funding for disaster mitigation projects.

[^][SB21-245: Backcountry Search And Rescue In Colorado](#), by Senators Donovan & Rankin and Representatives McCluskie & Will

On average, Colorado backcountry search and rescue organizations respond to over 3,500 incidents per year – more than any other state. This bill initiates a study and stakeholder process to address numerous issues with the existing volunteer-based backcountry search and rescue program and provide policy recommendations. It also addresses immediate needs by creating a pilot program to provide mental health services to backcountry search and rescue responders.

Investing in Agriculture and Water

^{^*}[SB21-248: Loan Program For Colorado Agriculture](#), by Senators Donovan & Simpson and Representatives McCormick & Holtorf

Agribusiness provides more than 170,000 jobs in Colorado and contributes over \$40 million annually to our economy, but the pandemic has dramatically reduced this growth. As part of the Colorado Comeback state stimulus package, this bill allocates \$30 million to create and implement the Colorado Agricultural Future Loan Program which will provide low-interest loans to beginning farmers and ranchers as well as farm-to-market infrastructure loans for businesses – putting Colorado's agriculture industry on a pathway toward a sustainable and prosperous future.

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[^][SB21-203: Funding For Colorado Proud](#), by Senators Bridges & Simpson and Representatives D. Valdez & Pelton

Colorado's robust agricultural sector has been the backbone of our economy for decades, and the pandemic has created unique challenges that require additional resources to overcome. As part of the Colorado Comeback state stimulus package, this bill gives \$2.5 million to the Department of Agriculture for use in the Colorado Proud program, providing new opportunities for Colorado's agricultural producers to increase sales globally and support the growth and resiliency of Colorado food systems.

[^][SB21-204: Rural Economic Development Initiative Grant Program Funding](#), by Senators Donovan & Rankin and Representatives Young & Van Beber

In an effort to help rural communities diversify their local economies, and as part of the Colorado Comeback state stimulus package, this bill transfers \$5 million to the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Grant Program to be used for projects that create diversity and resiliency in the local economies of rural communities, including projects that revitalize infrastructure, develop economic action plans, and improve historic buildings.

[^][SB21-229: Rural Jump-start Zone Grant Program](#), by Senators Danielson & Story and Representative Amabile & House Minority Leader McKean

As part of the Colorado Comeback state stimulus package, this bill directs \$3 million to the Rural Jump Start Grant Program, which helps economically distressed communities – particularly communities that will be affected by the energy market's transition away from coal to more renewable energy sources – attract new businesses and jobs.

[^][SB21-234: General Fund Transfer Agriculture And Drought Resiliency](#), by Senators Jaquez Lewis & Sonnenberg and Representatives Cutter & Holtorf

In 2020, every single one of the 64 Colorado counties experienced a drought. This drought exacerbated many of the financial impacts on the agriculture sector, and as climate change worsens, drought could cost Colorado an additional \$511 million dollars in expected annual damages to agriculture. As part of the Colorado Comeback state stimulus package, this bill establishes the Agriculture & Drought Resiliency Fund in the Department of Agriculture and allocates \$3 million to promote the ability of the state to anticipate, mitigate, and respond to droughts.

[^][SB21-235: Stimulus Funding Department Of Agriculture Efficiency Programs](#), by Senators Jaquez Lewis & Priola and Representatives Bennett & McCormick

As part of the Colorado Comeback state stimulus package, this bill allocates \$5 million to voluntary soil health programs and the ACRE3 program, Colorado's premier state-level program for agricultural energy management. ACRE3 provides financial aid, technical assistance, and education to help agriculture producers and processors cut energy costs and develop their own energy resources.

[^][HB21-1260: General Fund Transfer Implement State Water Plan](#), by House Speaker Garnett & Representative Catlin and Senators Donovan & Simpson

As part of the Colorado Comeback state stimulus package, this bill provides \$20 million to the Colorado Water Conservation Board to implement the Colorado Water Plan. The bill helps ensure that Colorado can meet its future water needs by investing in critical water infrastructure projects across the state.

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[HB21-1242: Create Agricultural Drought And Climate Resilience Office](#), by Representative McLachlan and Senator Donovan

Severe droughts and other devastating climate events are threatening our agriculture industry and putting more pressure on Colorado's already strained water supply. This bill creates the Office of Agricultural Drought and Climate Resilience in the Department of Agriculture to help the industry respond to and mitigate the impacts of climate change with voluntary technical assistance and incentive programs for producers.

[^][HB21-1181: Agricultural Soil Health Program](#), by Representatives McCormick & Will and Senators Winter & Simpson

Droughts and dwindling water supplies are becoming more extreme as the impacts of climate change worsen every year. The voluntary incentives under the Soil Health Program created by this bill will support the vitality of the agriculture industry statewide by sharing best soil health practices with farmers to improve soil productivity and drought resilience and increase sustainable operations.

^{^*}[HB21-1262: Money Support Agricultural Events Organization](#), by Representatives Lontine & Lynch and Senate President Garcia & Senator Sonnenberg

As part of the Colorado Comeback state stimulus package, this bill makes substantial investments in Colorado's agriculture industry by supporting critical events throughout the state, including \$5 million for Colorado's iconic State Fair, and \$28.5 million for the National Western Stock Show to help ensure its continued presence in our state.

Securing Justice for All

[SB21-146: Improve Prison Release Outcomes](#), by Senator Lee and Representative Bacon

This bill will require the Colorado Department of Corrections to develop a recommended parole plan for every inmate prior to release from prison, as well as procedures for special needs parole. This effort will help decrease the likelihood of recidivism and support successful reentry back into communities for formerly incarcerated individuals.

[^][SB21-280: Bias-motivated Crimes](#), by Senators Fields & Cooke and Representatives Weissman & Soper

Colorado has seen an alarming increase in hate crimes over the last several years. Under previous law, if someone commits a bias-motivated crime, they could avoid being charged with a hate crime because that wasn't their sole motive in committing the crime. This bill closes that loophole and ensures justice is upheld for victims of hate crimes.

[SB21-124: Changes To Felony Murder](#), by Senator Lee & Representative Weissman

The severity of a sentence should be reflective of the crime committed. This bill reduces the sentencing standard for crimes committed by people convicted of being present but not directly responsible for a murder, from an automatic sentence of life without parole to a sentence of between 16 and 48 years in prison.

[^][SB21-153: Offender Identification Assistance Program](#), by Senators Coleman & Cooke and Representatives Ortiz & Tipper

We must do a better job of providing former inmates with the tools to reintegrate back into normal life. This bill requires the Department of Corrections to assist incarcerated individuals with acquiring

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state-issued identification cards and other identification documents when they are released so that they can more easily seek employment, health care, and education, as well as overcome other barriers that lack of identification can present.

[^SB21-088: Child Sexual Abuse Accountability Act](#), by Senators Danielson & Fields and Representatives Michaelson Jenet & Soper

This bill helps to provide justice for victims of child sexual abuse by allowing them to bring a legal claim against the individual that abused them or an organization that was involved and complicit in the offense when the victim was a minor.

[^SB21-073: Civil Action Statute Of Limitations Sexual Assault](#), by Senators Danielson & Coram and Representatives Michaelson Jenet & Soper

This legislation eliminates the civil statute of limitations for future sexual assault offenses, so that victims can seek justice from their perpetrators and hold them accountable in court on any timeline.

[SB21-066: Juvenile Diversion Programs](#), by Senator Lee and Representative Michaelson Jenet

For many, a life in and out of the criminal justice system begins as a child. This bill will direct the Division of Criminal Justice to instill a greater focus and emphasis on diversion programs that give young people in the system opportunities to move on and mature into adulthood without continued involvement in the justice system.

[SB21-071: Limit The Detention Of Juveniles](#), by Senator Buckner and Representatives Daugherty & Boesenecker

Detention centers are intended to temporarily house youth who pose a notable risk to the community, but the use of detention is increasing--often for nonviolent offenses--and facilities are packed with young people who do not meet high-risk criteria. This bill reduces the maximum number of juvenile detention beds managed by the Colorado Department of Human Services from 327 to 188 and prohibits the use of cash bail on juveniles charged with or accused of committing a delinquent act.

[SB21-192: Housing Mentors In Youthful Offender Facility](#), by Senator Gonzales and Representative Amabile

Under existing law, youthful offenders are housed and serve their sentences separately from Department of Corrections inmates that are 25 years of age or older. This bill creates an exception for older inmates participating in mentorship programs, providing an opportunity for youthful offenders to serve their sentences alongside their mentor and leading to improved outcomes upon release.

[SB21-111: Program To Support Marijuana Entrepreneurs](#), by Senators Moreno & Gonzales and Representatives Herod & Ortiz

Communities that have been disproportionately impacted and targeted by the unjust war on drugs have not been able to take part in the economic growth driven by our state's legal marijuana industry. This bill creates a program in the Office of Economic Development and International Trade to support these entrepreneurs in the marijuana industry with access to capital, innovation, job creation, and technical assistance.

[SB21-116: Prohibit American Indian Mascots](#), by Senator Danielson and Representatives Benavidez & McLachlan

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Mascots based on discriminatory caricatures of American Indians create hostile learning environments and impact the mental health and learning opportunities of American Indian students. This bill prohibits any K-12 school or institution of higher education in Colorado from using an American Indian mascot after June 1, 2022, allowing one year for schools to make these necessary changes.

[SB21-169: Restrict Insurers' Use Of External Consumer Data](#), by Senator Buckner and Representative Ricks & House Majority Leader Esgar

To help address inequities in the health care system, this bill prohibits considering someone's race, color, nationality, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or transgender status in any insurance practice, as well as using any external consumer data, algorithm, or predictive model that unfairly discriminates against someone based on those factors.

[^][HB21-1250: Measures to Address Law Enforcement Accountability](#), by Representatives Herod & Gonzales-Gutierrez and Senators Fields & Gardner

In the wake of George Floyd's murder last year, Colorado made history by passing SB20-217, a sweeping police accountability reform measure. HB21-1250 strengthens the progress made to date on its implementation. It clarifies when body-worn cameras must be operating and provides additional funding for police departments to come into compliance, explicitly outlines a peace officer's due process rights, extends the elimination of qualified immunity to the Colorado State Patrol, and closes a loophole in existing law by prohibiting employers from preemptively determining whether a peace officer acted in good faith before such action in question even occurred. Lastly, it sets up two working groups to study the use of no-knock warrants and alternative police response to low-level offenses.

[^][SB21-190: Protect Personal Data Privacy](#), by Senators Rodriguez & Lundeen and Representatives Duran & Carver

The lack of regulation around big tech companies has resulted in monopolization and control of our data that corporations use for profit. This bill will provide consumers with the right to opt out of their personal data being processed, as well as the right to access, correct, or delete their personal data from various entities in Colorado that utilize and profit off of their data. The bill also sets requirements for companies' responsibility to protect personal data in their possession.

[HB21-1280: Pre-trial Detention Reform](#), by Representatives Woodrow & Gonzales-Gutierrez and Senators Lee & Rodriguez

In this country you are presumed innocent until proven guilty--yet far too often, Coloradans languish in jail for excessive periods of time awaiting trial for minor offenses. This bill requires courts to hold an initial bond hearing within 48 hours of arrival at a detention facility and allows these hearings to be conducted online or over the phone, funds a statewide bond hearing officer for rural and under-resourced jurisdictions to better allow hearings to be held on weekends and holidays, and makes several changes to the monetary bond process, including allowing bonds to be paid online.

[HB21-1251: Appropriate Use Of Chemical Restraints On A Person](#), by Representatives Caraveo & Herod and Senators Fields & Gonzales

The death of Elijah McClain at the hands of police brought national attention to the use of the powerful sedative ketamine. This bill prohibits law enforcement from compelling, directing, or unduly influencing a paramedic to chemically incapacitate someone by administering ketamine. It adds strict new requirements for the circumstances under which a paramedic can administer ketamine in prehospital settings in the presence of law enforcement, including obtaining a verbal order from a medical

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supervisor, an accurate estimation of weight to ensure proper dosage, and equipment on site to monitor the person's vital signs and provide urgent transport to a hospital.

[^SB21-174: Policies For Peace Officer Credibility Disclosures](#), by Senators Ginal & Cooke and Representatives Bird & Carver

To build on previous work on promoting transparency in law enforcement, this bill requires a law enforcement agency to provide a credibility disclosure notification to a district attorney's office if a peace officer's credibility is called into question by an internal investigation, an allegation, or a sustained finding.

[^*HB21-1215: Expansion Of Justice Crime Prevention Initiative](#), by Representatives Ortiz & Holtorf and Senators Lee & Hisey

This bill expands an existing pilot program known as the Community Crime Prevention Initiative that provides grants to community-based organizations to reduce crime and recidivism and promote community economic development. Now expanding to rural parts of the state, the program trains formerly incarcerated people in business, finance, and entrepreneurship, and provides loans to those who graduate from the program to start their own small businesses.

[HB21-1214: Record Sealing Collateral Consequences Reduction](#), by Representatives Weissman & Bacon and Senators Coleman & Lee

In our criminal legal system, one's punishment should end when their sentence does; but in practice, criminal records lead to a lifetime of collateral consequences. Under this bill, certain records for low-level drug offenses would be automatically sealed, and other low-level offenses could be considered by a court for discretionary sealing after waiting periods of up to ten years.

[HB21-1314: Drivers License Suspensions](#), by Representatives Herod & Gray and Senators Moreno & Rodriguez

Over 100,000 Coloradans have their licenses suspended for their failure to appear in court or pay a fine, a counterproductive punishment that makes it harder for Coloradans to pay back their debts and restricts their ability to get to work, appear in court, and care for their families. This bill limits the circumstances when driver's licenses and learners permits can be revoked to only those where public safety requires it, while leaving intact punishments for dangerous driving.

[^HB21-1315: Costs Assessed To Juveniles In The Criminal Justice System](#), by Representatives Herod & Soper and Senators Moreno & Gonzales

An incident with the criminal system shouldn't leave a family bankrupt, yet burdensome court fees contribute to cycles of poverty and debt that hold our communities back. The average fees per juvenile case total about \$300 in Colorado, and it is estimated that the state of Colorado spends about 75% of juvenile fee revenue on collection. This bill eliminates the majority of fees levied on families in the juvenile justice system, except those going toward restorative justice.

[^HB21-1143: Protect Survivors' Rights To Rape Kit Evidence](#), by Representatives Froelich & Soper and Senator Danielson

When survivors of sexual assault come forward and subject themselves to a forensic exam, they are often unable to receive timely information about their case. Under this bill, survivors will be notified when forensic medical evidence is submitted for testing, whether a DNA sample is obtained from the analysis, and whether it matches to any DNA profiles in state or federal databases. They will also be notified 60 days prior to the destruction of evidence and have the right to object.

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[HB21-1110: Colorado Laws For Persons With Disabilities](#), by Representative Ortiz and Senator Danielson

Colorado state agency resources are not always in compliance with federal anti-discrimination law. This bill requires that all rules promulgated by Colorado departments are at least as strong as the Americans with Disabilities Act and tasks state agencies with developing an accessibility plan that enables an individual with a disability to access digital content with the same privacy and ease of use as individuals without disabilities.

[^][HB21-1122: First Responder Interactions Persons With Disabilities](#), by Representatives Froelich & Larson and Senators Kolker & Ginal

People with disabilities are disproportionately more likely to be victims of crime and have unique needs when interacting with first responders. This bill establishes a commission within the Attorney General's office to improve first responder interactions with persons with disabilities. The commission will study existing training for peace officers on interactions with persons with disabilities and recommend an improved training curriculum to the P.O.S.T. board.

[^][HB21-1057: Extortion of Immigrants Engaging in Lawful Acts](#), by Representatives Roberts & Tipper and Senators Rodriguez & Cooke

A loophole in current law prevents prosecutors from defending undocumented immigrants against extortion, particularly workers and victims of domestic and sexual violence. This bill makes our communities safer by closing that loophole and giving prosecutors a critical tool to combat crimes that we know are happening in Colorado.

[^][HB21-1069: Enforcement Of Sexual Exploitation Of A Child](#), by Representatives Roberts & Carver and Senators Fields & Gardner

As technology has advanced, so have the perverse tactics criminals use to sexually exploit children. This bill makes sexual exploitation of a child an extraordinary risk crime, increasing the maximum potential sentence an offender can receive and ensuring that any actions used to sexually exploit children using technology fit under the definition of sexual exploitation of a child.

[^][HB21-1165 - Assistance for Victims of Strangulation](#), by Representatives Duran & Carver and Senators Lee & Gardner

The cost of forensic medical examinations is often a barrier for victims of strangulation, and sometimes the physical effects don't appear for several days after the crime was committed. This bill makes victims of strangulation eligible for compensation to cover the costs of forensic examinations that aid in law enforcement crime investigations.

[^][HB21-1228: Domestic Violence Training Court Personnel](#), by Representative Froelich and Senators Winter & Smallwood

This bill ensures those working in our court system are better equipped to deal with domestic matters such as custody disputes. It clarifies and increases domestic violence training requirements for court personnel to include annual continuing education that encompasses the traumatic effects of domestic violence on children, adults, and families.

[HB21-1211: Regulation Of Restrictive Housing In Jails](#), by Representative Amabile and Senator Lee

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Restrictive housing, also known as solitary confinement, can have devastating psychological consequences, especially for individuals experiencing mental illness who are estimated to comprise more than 70% of our jail population. This bill puts significant guardrails on the use of solitary confinement in jails and requires more involvement from medical and mental health professionals.

[HB21-1201: Telecommunications Transparency in Jails](#), by Representatives Gonzales-Gutierrez & Tipper and Senator Gonzales

Studies have shown that the ability of incarcerated people to keep in touch with loved ones reduces recidivism, yet the price of phone calls is a costly barrier. Under the bill, the rate caps established by the FCC will apply to all in-state debit, prepaid, and collect calls to or from our correctional facilities. The bill adds transparency requirements to communications providers and charges the PUC with making this information public and holding providers accountable.

[HB21-1142: Eyewitness Identification Showup Regulations](#), by Representative Bacon and Senator Gonzales

After the wrongful arrest of a Black teenager in Denver, his family and dozens of community leaders spent two years working with law enforcement to help develop new procedures for “showups,” certain tactics used to identify a suspect in a crime. This work culminated in HB21-1142, which requires law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies and procedures aligning their use of showups with research-based best practices, including not making suggestive comments, separating eyewitnesses from one another if there are multiple, and obtaining the services of an interpreter when appropriate.

Supporting Veterans

[^][SB21-015: Veterans Service Organization Stipend For Funeral Services](#), by Senate President Garcia & Senator Cooke and Representatives Ortiz & Lynch

Anyone who takes on the noble duty of serving our country should be provided with honorable funeral services to demonstrate our respect and gratitude, and to ensure their families are given the proper closure. This bill will grant \$20k in stipends to veterans service organizations that provide honor guard funeral services to honorably discharged veterans.

[SB21-026: Restoration Of Honor Act](#), by Senator Moreno and Representative Ortiz

There are LGBTQ+ veterans who have been discharged other than honorably from the US Military due to their sexual orientation or gender identity, and as a result are ineligible for certain Colorado benefits and services. This bill establishes the status of “discharged LGBT veteran” for the purposes of Colorado law, which will ensure that veterans aren’t denied benefits unjustly due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

[SB21-032: Mobile Veterans-Support Unit Grant Program](#), by Senator Donovan and Representative Ortiz

This bill establishes a new mobile veterans-support unit that will distribute supplies, connect veterans with critical health care services, and provide transportation to veterans who may be experiencing homelessness or are unable to access essential services.

[SB21-129: Veteran Suicide Prevention Pilot Program](#), by Senate President Garcia and Representative Ortiz

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Every single day, approximately 17 veterans take their own lives. This bill establishes a Veterans Suicide Prevention Pilot Program for post-9/11 veterans to receive confidential treatment for conditions that lead to suicide like PTSD, depression, substance abuse, sexual trauma, or traumatic brain injuries.

[^HB21-1016: Transfer Jurisdiction To Veteran's Speciality Court](#), by Representatives Ortiz & Lynch and Senate President Garcia & Senator Gardner

Veterans speciality courts are designed to support current or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have behavioral health issues like substance use disorder or trauma spectrum disorder. This bill supports Colorado veterans suffering from a mental health condition related to their military service by allowing them to petition to transfer to a jurisdiction with a speciality court to complete their sentence or probation supervision and receive post-conviction treatment, and ensures veterans in all jurisdictions are informed of these new rights.

[^HB21-1065: Veterans' Hiring Preference](#), by Representatives Ortiz & Carver and Senate President Garcia

Recognizing the barriers veterans face in gaining employment and reentering civilian life, this bill allows a private employer to give preference to a veteran or the spouse of a veteran when hiring as long as the veterans or spouse is qualified for the position. The bill includes safeguards against discrimination by still allowing a job applicant who is in a protected class to file a discrimination claim to ensure the bill does not have unintended discriminatory impacts on women and people of color.

[^HB21-1116: Purple Heart Recipient Free State Park Access](#), by Representatives Ortiz & Holtorf and Senate President Garcia & Senator Liston

To expand access to Colorado's great outdoors, this bill allows veterans displaying a Purple Heart special license plate to access any state park or recreation area free of charge. Any Purple Heart recipient who is a resident of Colorado can obtain a free state parks pass from a Colorado Parks and Wildlife office.

Preventing Gun Violence

[SB21-078: Lost Or Stolen Firearms](#), by Senators Jaquez Lewis & Danielson and Representatives Sullivan & Herod

Between 2015-2019, the FBI estimates that more than 30,000 guns – worth \$13.5+ million – were stolen in Colorado. Lost and stolen guns are responsible for increasing numbers of crimes, both within Colorado and nationwide, and the lack of reporting data makes it difficult to prevent weapons from getting into the hands of people who are otherwise prohibited from owning them. SB21-078 seeks to rectify this situation by enacting a reporting requirement for lost or stolen guns.

[SB21-256: Local Regulation Of Firearms](#), by Senate Majority Leader Fenberg & Senator Moreno and Representatives Hooton & Daugherty

Just ten days before the King Soopers shooting, courts struck down Boulder's citywide assault weapons ban, which had been the result of years of advocacy from community members to help keep residents safer. This bill gives local governments the power to craft their own tailored, community-based responses to gun violence that go above and beyond the protections in state law.

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[HB21-1106: Safe Storage Of Firearms](#), by Representatives Duran & Mullica and Senators Bridges & Hansen

The vast majority of Colorado gun owners are responsible with their firearms. This bill seeks to promote responsible gun ownership by requiring that firearms be safely stored when there is the potential for children or unauthorized users to access the weapons, and creating an educational campaign around how and why to properly store firearms.

[HB21-1255: Protection Order Issued Against Domestic Abuser](#), by Representatives Duran & Gray and Senators Jaquez Lewis & Pettersen

A recent analysis of 749 mass shootings committed over the past six years found that about 60 percent of them were either domestic violence attacks or committed by people with domestic violence records. In Colorado, 60 incidents of domestic violence led to 70 deaths in 2019. This bill strengthens and streamlines procedures for the relinquishment of firearms by someone who has a domestic violence-related protection order issued against them, in order to better protect the safety of domestic violence victims.

[HB21-1298: Expand Firearm Transfer Background Check Requirements](#), by Representatives Amabile & Woodrow and Senators Gonzales & Pettersen

The Boulder shooter was legally allowed to purchase the firearm he used in the shooting, despite his recent conviction for misdemeanor assault. This bill prohibits a person who has been convicted of certain violent misdemeanor offenses from purchasing a firearm for five years. These specific criminal offenses show a propensity for violence or illegal usage of a weapon and include charges like child abuse, hate crimes, cruelty to animals, sexual assault, and third degree assault. The bill also closes the “Charleston loophole” to ensure that everyone who purchases a firearm has first passed a background check.

[HB21-1299: Office Of Gun Violence Prevention](#), by Representatives Sullivan & Bacon and Senators Fields & Hansen

This bill establishes the Office of Gun Violence Prevention to educate the public about gun violence prevention through public awareness campaigns including how to file an Extreme Risk Protection Order, how to access mental health resources, and how to store firearms securely. The Office will also fund proven community-based violence intervention programs that are focused on interrupting cycles of gun violence and facilitate gun violence prevention research in Colorado.

Improving Colorado’s Gold Standard Elections System

[SB21-188: Ballot Access For Voters With Disabilities](#), by Senator Danielson and Representatives Duran & Ortiz

This bill allows voters with disabilities to return their ballots online just as overseas and military voters do, building on a bill passed in 2019 that allows voters with disabilities to access their ballots online.

[SB21-250: Elections And Voting](#), by Senate Majority Leader Fenberg & Senator Gonzales and Representatives Lontine & Caraveo

Although Colorado has some of the most transparent and accessible elections in the country, there are still improvements we can make. Following the feedback from the Secretary of State, county clerks, and voting rights advocates, some of the bill’s improvements to Colorado’s gold-standard election system include: expanding online and automatic voter registration, requiring colleges to

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provide information to enrolled students how to register or update their voter registration, and expanding definitions of electioneering in and around polling places.

[HB21-1011: Multilingual Ballot Access For Voters](#), by Representative Caraveo and Senators Gonzales & Moreno

This bill improves our democracy and increases voter access by expanding the use of multilingual ballots. It creates a statewide ballot hotline providing translation services in the top languages in which the census was offered and requires that counties print ballots, either on paper or electronically, in any language spoken by at least 2,000 or 2.5% of eligible voters meeting specified criteria.

[HB21-1071: Ranked Choice Voting In Nonpartisan Elections](#), by Representative Kennedy and Senate Majority Leader Fenberg & Senator Winter

To encourage voter engagement and expand voter choice, the bill allows towns and cities to run ranked-choice elections through a county coordinated election, and directs the Secretary of State's office to create statewide rules regarding voting systems and auditing practices for municipalities that opt in to a ranked-choice voting system.

[HB21-1321: Voter Transparency In Ballot Measures](#), by Representatives Kennedy & Weissman and Senators Moreno & Pettersen

This bill will provide voters with more detailed information about how approving or rejecting a particular ballot question will impact the top three taxpayer-funded programs.

Defeating Dangerous GOP Bills

Weakening Common Sense Gun Safety Measures

These dangerous bills would have repealed life-saving, common-sense laws to protect Coloradans from gun violence.

- [HB21-1038: Allowing Guns On School Grounds](#), by Representative Neville
- [HB21-1070: Ending the High Capacity Magazine Ban](#), by Representative Hanks
- [HB21-1082: Weakening the Background Check System](#), by House Minority Leader McKean
- [HB21-1098: Weakening Extreme Risk Protection Orders](#), by Representative Woog
- [HB21-1185: Repealing Firearms Training During an Emergency](#), by Representative Neville

Threatening Voting Rights

Straight out of the Trump playbook, this series of bills sought to create doubt in our gold-standard, accessible elections system and would have disenfranchised thousands of Colorado voters.

- [HB21-1053: Politically Motivated Election Recount Requests](#), by Representative Williams
- [HB21-1086: Limiting Mail-In Ballots](#), by Representative Luck
- [HB21-1088: Unnecessary and Redundant Audits](#), by Representative Pico
- [HB21-1176 Undermining Voter Confidence in Elections](#), by Representative Holtorf
- [SB21-010: Disenfranchising Colorado Voters](#), by Senator Woodward
- [SB21-007: Ending Mail Ballots](#), by Senator Lundeen

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Endangering Public Health and Safety

From creating a suspicious and dangerous abortion registry to hindering the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, House and Senate Democrats defeated reckless legislation that would have endangered the lives of countless Coloradans.

- [HB21-1183: State Abortion Registry](#), by Representative Luck
- [HB21-1202: Unproven Drugs To Treat COVID-19](#), by Representative Luck
- [SB21-114: Oil And Gas Development Near Schools](#), by Senator Kirkmeyer
- [SCR21-001: Hampering Colorado's COVID Response](#), by Senator Lundeen and Representatives Geitner & Pico
- [HB21-1032: Ending Statewide Disaster Declarations](#), by Representative Luck
- [HB21-1036: Ending Life Saving Health Orders](#), by Representative Pico
- [HB21-1081: Prohibiting Extension of Disaster Emergency Declarations](#), by Representative Pico
- [HB21-1191: Endangering Public Health in the Workforce](#), by Representative Ransom and Van Beber

Bad For Workers and Bad for Business

These bills would have provided broad discretion to private businesses and their customers to discriminate and endanger the health of others, and would have made it nearly impossible for unions to negotiate for better wages, benefits, and safer working conditions for Colorado workers.

- [HB21-1049: Right to Work For Less](#), by Representatives Ransom and Van Beber
- [HB21-1041: Business Discrimination](#), by Representative Woog
- [HB21-1074: Immunity For Endangering Public Health](#), by Representative Bradfield

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