

CoSEA Colorado Legislative Update May 02, 2022

The House and Senate have introduced 651 bills so far, with 363 still pending. Of the 363 pending, 163 are close to very close to receiving a final action either by the final chamber or with the Governor's signature. Two hundred bills are just introduced into the second chamber or haven't crossed chambers. More bills will no doubt be introduced next week. The number of bills remaining that require significant work is substantial.

One of those bills, the much-anticipated Collective Bargaining bill, was introduced in the Senate (this past week). That occupied a significant amount of space in the chamber this week. As the bill headed to the floor for 2nd reading on Friday evening, Republicans had lined up over 250 amendments, which would have required hours and hours of debate. At the Nth hour, Senate Democrats and Republicans worked out a deal to limit debate and whittle the number of amendments down below twenty.

This past week, the Governor and democratic leaders of the House and Senate announced they would introduce legislation to push out constitutionally required TABOR refund checks to the public in August of 2022 rather than spring of 2023 for taxpayers who had filed returns by May 31 of this year. The bill, SB22-233, was introduced on April 27 and spurred quick reaction from tax preparers across the state, including CoSEA. The bill was heard in the Senate Finance Committee on Friday, April 29, and was amended to address a number of concerns brought forward by CoSEA and the business community including moving the initial filing date back to June 30 of this year to allow extension filers time to qualify for the early checks and providing a hold harmless clause for tax preparers. Additional amendments are expected to ensure taxpayers filing later in the year will have some provision for receiving their TABOR refunds by spring of 2023.

Updates on Key Legislation

SB22-006, Sales Tax Assistance for Small Business, which CoSEA is supporting, permits a retailer with total taxable sales in the amount of \$100,000 or less to retain 5.3% of the sales tax reported as compensation for the retailer's expenses incurred in collecting and remitting the tax (vendor fee) for sales made in 2023, rather than retaining a 4% vendor fee, which is what current law allows. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 34-0, passed out of House Finance Committee by a vote of 9-1 and awaits action by the House Appropriations Committee.

SB22-233, TABOR Refund Mechanism For FY 2021-22 Only, which CoSEA is amending, changes the refund TABOR refund date for fiscal year 2021-2022 by allowing taxpayers who have filed by May 31, 2022 to receive \$400 TABOR refund per taxpayer by August 2022. SB22-233 passed Senate Finance and Senate Appropriations Committee by party-line votes. CoSEA has obtained favorable amendments to

the bill and continues to work with the sponsors and administration for a fix to allow extension filers to also receive their TABOR refunds.

HB22-1118, Sales and Tax Use Refunds, which CoSEA was amending, made a number of changes to processes around sales and use tax refunds. CoSEA successfully worked on amendments with the bill sponsor and the Department of Revenue that were accepted into the bill. HB22-1118 has passed out of the House and the Senate, and now awaits Governor's signature.

CoSEA counsel has provided outreach to legislators on CoSEA's position on bills as legislation has moved through the process.

A link to the CoSEA bill tracker is below and provides an overview of all legislation CoSEA is tracking or considering at this time.

CoSEA Bill Tracker: <https://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-tracker-votes/0/6525/2022/0/>