

## **CAPITOL UPDATE - Week Ending April 10, 2026**

YOUR BILL TRACKER: [CoSEA](#)

### **THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS FROM UNDER THE DOME**

#### **The House Struggled With The Budget; Now, on to the Senate**

The House began the week with the intention of moving the Long Appropriations bill, [HB 26-1410](#) encapsulating the FY 2026/27 state budget, through the motions and moving it on to the Senate. However, after making it through only 43 of the 73 proposed budget amendments Representative Brandi Bradley (R - Highlands Ranch) moved to have the bill read in its entirety. Though members had already pushed through several hours of work on the measure, the State Constitution allows any member to make such a request. This left leadership with no procedural choice but to delay or proceed the reading. Representative Bradley informed reporters that she requested the reading to protest how leadership handled a sexual harassment complaint she made against a GOP colleague. (Articles are linked below.) House Majority Leader Monica Duran pivoted quickly to move the bill to Thursday's calendar and instead moved to consider the first few "orbital bills" that accompany the long bill. This was also delayed by other Republican requests to read some of those at length as well. Majority Leader Duran called proceedings to a halt late that evening.

On Thursday, the long bill – and its full reading – was placed at the end of the calendar to allow the House to tackle the rest of the orbitals. It took the full day to do that, slowed by long debates over reducing the state reserve from 15% to 13%, the sweep of \$130 million voter-approved housing grant funds to the General Fund, and funding for Cover All Coloradans health insurance program for some undocumented residents.

The drone began on Thursday evening as the long bill was finally read at length. "Dollar, dollar, dollar, dollar, dollar" was the chorus chanted by the computerized male voice reading the bill "at length" as, apparently, it reached the end of each section of the 600-page plus measure, which consists of giant spreadsheets. The computer reading of the long bill started about 6:45 p.m. and continued until about 10 p.m.

Under a typical "budget week" schedule, the House would have finished preliminary consideration of the whole spending package on Wednesday and voted final approval of the bills Thursday. However, the House started its work on Friday recognizing former Governor Roy Romer and naming part of I-25 in his honor. Romer was invited to speak from the well, talking about the importance of representative democracy and shared stories from his early days in the House. After members finished greeting the former Governor, the tireless computer voice resumed its reading until close to 7pm. The House finally passed the budget bill and accompanying orbitals on second reading late Friday evening.

In comparison to the previous three days, the House only took five and a half hours Saturday to approve the FY2026-27 long bill package 43-19. There were a handful of technical amendments and not that much debate (especially if you do not count the usual Republican suspects). With the exception of changes to the Cover All Colorado bill, the budget package remained almost entirely as the JBC crafted it – as usual.

In the end the House met its deadline for delivering the budget to the Senate, where the process is expected to be more orderly and less dramatic.

Across the hall in the Capitol, the Senate had a quiet and easy week. Senators approved [HB 26-1293](#), the measure modernizing language in the Blue Book voter information guide, on a 33-0 vote. The Senate agreed to House amendments on [SB26-014](#), which makes changes to requirements for pleading innocent by reason of insanity, and re-passed it 22-12. On Monday Governor Jared Polis signed [SB 26-004](#), the measure that expands the list of people who can petition a judge to temporarily restrict a person's access to firearms under Colorado's "red flag" law.

Saturday was the 88th day of the 120-day session.

## TALLYING THE BILLS

There were not many bills introduced this week, but there were some interesting ones - all Democrat sponsored:

- Corrections: [SB 26-159](#), modifies earned time formulas for prison inmates, increasing the maximum monthly earned time from ten to twelve days for most inmates and from 30% to 35% maximum sentence reduction, and creates a working group to develop a capacity management plan for the state prisons. [SB 26-158](#) allows the State Board of Parole to approve early parole applications for youthful offenders who have completed a specialized program if the Governor does not act on a case within 60 days.
- Home Insurance: [SB 26-155](#) proposes the Strengthen Colorado Homes Enterprise, a government-owned business that would impose a 5% fee on home insurance premiums to fund grants for homeowners to install resilient roof systems and reduce losses from extreme weather.

As of Friday morning, 574 bills have been introduced.

## THIS WEEK AT THE JBC

Needless to say, it was a high-stress week for the three House members of the budget committee. The action by both chambers on the budget is the culmination of close to 5 months of 8+ hours per day listening to briefings and hearings on every aspect of the state budget. And, this year, painstakingly moving through every single line item in search of over \$600m in current year budget savings and how to fill a \$1.5b budget hole in the upcoming fiscal year.

It is particularly challenging for committee members to have the rest of the members Monday-morning-quarterback all of the committee's decisions of the last 5 months. For the most part, though, they kept their cool. Democratic JBC Chair Emily Sirota sounded peevisish at times when she challenged House members to come up with better cuts than the JBC proposed.

Republican Rick Taggart and Democrat Kyle Brown looked like they were trying to restrain their irritation when their carefully structured plan to fund the Cover All Coloradans insurance program got upended by progressive Democrats. A successful amendment boosted program funding by cutting the proposed budget for reimbursement of private prison operators. Expect further debate on this issue.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

All the best,  
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## **KEY NEWS LINKS FROM THE WEEK**

### Notable Stories of The Week

Note that budget stories from the Capitol press corps tend to lack full context about the budget shortfall and the steps JBC took to close it.

- Rep. Bradley's personal grievances drove reading long bill at length (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2026/04/09/colorado-legislature-budget-slowdown-ethics/>
- Budget consideration stalls out (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/04/09/house-gop-stalls-colorado-budget-debate-by-forcing-full-reading-of-661-page-bill/>
- House opens budget debate (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/04/08/colorado-house-opens-debate-on-46-8b-budget-already-showing-strain/>
- Budget debate kicks off (CO Newsline) - <https://coloradonewsline.com/2026/04/08/colorado-debate-state-budget/>
- Polis signs expanded red flag law (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/04/06/governor-signs-bill-expanding-who-can-petition-for-weapons-restrictions/>
- McCluskie bill proposes Pinnacol sale (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/04/02/proposal-outlines-300m-deal-separating-pinnacol-from-colorado-state-government/>