

## **CAPITOL UPDATE - Week Ending April 24, 2026**

YOUR BILL TRACKER: [CoSEA](#)

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

#### **CoSEA 2026 LEGISLATIVE DAY REPORT**

The Colorado Society of Enrolled Agents (CoSEA) held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Day on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. CoSEA members hosted a legislative breakfast reception which was attended by a number of State Senators, State Representatives, including members of House and Senate leadership, and Chairs and members of the Senate and House Finance Committees. CoSEA members used this opportunity to educate elected officials regarding the Enrolled Agent designation and why it is important to have the industry at the table when relevant policy is being considered. This message was very well-received by the state's elected officials.



CoSEA Legislative Day attendees then went onto the Senate floor, where State Senator Marc Snyder (D-Manitou Springs) and Senate Assistant Minority Leader Lisa Frizell (R-Castle Rock) recognized the CoSEA and NATP attendees (pictured above).

CoSEA then hosted a luncheon at the Denver University Club where members heard presentations from Amber Egbert with the Taxation Division of the Colorado Department of Revenue and Tracey Brookover, Grants Director for the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

#### **The End is Coming Near**

With the days rapidly counting down to mandatory adjournment on May 13, legislative leaders dramatically picked up the pace of floor work this week, pushing to advance both significant and routine bills.

The House and Senate cleared a number of lesser measures late Friday morning before starting debate on several more controversial measures. The House spent six hours of debate regarding availability of abortion medication on college campuses ([HB 26-1335](#)), legal protections for immigrants ([HB 26-1276](#)) and changes in homicide statutes ([HB 26-1281](#)). Debate on these measures could have taken longer than six hours, however the Democratic leadership imposed two-hour debate limits on each bill.

Over in the Senate, members were deep into speeches on [SB 26-135](#), a Democratic proposal asking voters to approve diversion of TABOR refunds to K-12 funding increases— and other state programs. The bill set up a major Democratic-Republican confrontation over TABOR.

Here is a sampling of other notable issues debated this week:

- Diaper Changing Stations: An unfunded mandate issue, the House held two long debates on this measure and voted 35-28 to pass [HB 26-1130](#), which sets requirements for diaper changing stations in public restrooms.
- Competency: The Senate voted 33-0 on Friday to pass [SB 26-149](#). Senator Judy Amabile's proposal creates new procedures for defendants deemed permanently incompetent to proceed to ensure access to treatment and prevent dangerous individuals from being released. A series of amendments trimmed the bill's cost.
- Lottery: [SB 26-116](#), the measure to restrict sales of lottery tickets on credit, passed the Senate 22-13 earlier in the week.
- Prisons: On Wednesday, the Senate voted 21-12 to pass [SB 26-036](#). The measure makes modest changes in procedures for managing populations in state prisons when the numbers of inmates near capacity.
- RTD: [SB 26-150](#), the measure to change the composition of the Regional Transportation District Board, passed the Senate 21-13 on Tuesday.
- Negligently Luring Bears: [HB 26-1342](#), passed the House 40-25 on Wednesday. The bill amends current law that criminalizes placing food or edible waste in open areas in ways that lure bears.

Newly introduced bills this week look likely to consume hours of debate. Friday was the 101st day of the 120-day session.

If you are thinking way ahead, the Executive Committee decided this week that the 120-day clock for 2027 will begin January 11, 2027. Mark your calendars!

## **TALLYING THE BILLS**

The number of measures introduced finally broke the 600-bill ceiling, and there are new measures worth noting. Last year there were 657 bills introduced during the regular session. With 19 days left, it is a question as to whether the Assembly will exceed last year's total. It is rumored that there are a large number of bills still waiting to be introduced - one being the long awaited AI regulation fix.

- Capitol Security: [HB 26-1422](#) creates an administrator of legislative safety to coordinate security and clarifies Colorado State Patrol jurisdiction over the Capitol complex and Governor's Mansion. It also increases security measures for state courts. Bipartisan.
- Corrections: The JBC has long been frustrated with how community corrections make its budget requests, and [HB 26-1423](#) sets requirements for more detailed requests from the agency, so JBC staff do not have to perform this task for them. JBC/Bipartisan.
- Front Range Rail: [SB 26-172](#) modifies the boundaries and operational procedures of the Front Range Passenger Rail District. It allows municipalities and metropolitan districts to join by consent, requires new directors to reside within the district and authorizes the creation of subdistricts. Democratic.
- Kids & Technology: Continuing the legislature's drive to protect children and young people from social media platforms, [HB 26-1418](#) would require social media platforms that provide online gaming services, products and features to young people to impose a fee on each add-on transaction and remit the fee to the youth mental health services access enterprise, which is created in the bill, and directs the enterprise to use the fee revenue to operate and fund programs that provide mental health services to young people. Democratic.
- "No Kings": Given this name by its sponsors, [SB 26-176](#) would create a state court remedy for violations of federal constitutional rights, allowing injured parties to sue for legal or equitable relief when someone acting under color of law deprives them of rights secured by the U.S. Constitution. Democratic.
- Private Equity in Law Firms: [HB26-1421](#), is an interesting alliance between the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association and the Colorado Chamber aimed at addressing concerns with private equity purchasing law firms and incentivizing more litigation.

As of Friday morning, [602 bills had been introduced](#).

## **THIS WEEK AT THE JBC**

This was supposed to be the week the budget committee pretty much finished up its work after five draining months of toil. The plan was to tidy up changes the House and Senate made in the FY2026-27 budget package, send conference committee reports back to floors, and review a few last-minute bill drafts.

It did not work out that way. The committee got two shocks that complicated things.

First, JBC received new information about the burgeoning costs of enrichment programs for home schooled students, prompting members to request drafting of a bill to rein in spending. Members were not entirely united on what the bill should contain, and staff apparently were still working on it Friday.

Second, the Department of Human Services came in with a request for \$30 million in additional funding for the state's competency restoration programs. DHS says that money is needed to reduce the danger of new, higher fines in the long running lawsuit and consent decree over the state's handling of competency. The committee spent several anxious hours on the issue and, on Thursday, approved a plan that combines most of the DHS request with modifications suggested by staff analyst Emily Pope. The problem was that to raise the \$30 million JBC had to take about \$7 million that a Senate budget amendment had proposed be used to ease cuts in Medicaid services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

Then, there were some last-minute complications with Medicaid rates paid for some maternal and newborn services. Medicaid has been a significant challenge this year with the budget, creating additional costs to the budget at every turn.

When it became clear early Thursday evening the committee could not finish, Chair Representative Emily Sirota conceded, "I guess we will have to reconvene, and I have no idea when." The JBC was unable to resume its work on Friday given heavy floor calendars.

The JBC still has to determine how to close the long bill, if it can find a little more money for IDD, whether to take some action on homeschool enrichment costs, and how to deal with funding for the Cover All Coloradans medical program.

Friday afternoon, the committee moved the deadline for the filing of the long bill until next Friday.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

All the best,  
Heidi

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## KEY NEWS LINKS FROM THE WEEK

- School funding referendum would tap TABOR refunds (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/04/23/colorado-taxpayers-would-lose-thousands-in-tabor-refunds-under-democrats-proposed-ballot-measure/>
- Bill seeks to improve lawmaker safety (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2026/04/24/colorado-lawmakers-security-records-minnesota-shooting/>
- Proposed ban on prop bets dies (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2026/04/21/proposed-ban-on-sports-prop-bets-dies-amid-state-budget-woes/>
- Bill to change law on the permanently incompetent advances (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/04/20/colorado-lawmakers-push-reforms-for-handling-defendants-deemed-incompetent/>
- Senate Education passes school finance act (Chalkbeat) - <https://www.chalkbeat.org/colorado/2026/04/20/colorado-lawmakers-beging-school-finance-act-debate/>
- JBC focused on newer programs for cuts (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/04/17/colorado-lawmakers-cut-newer-programs-to-close-1-2-billion-budget-shortfall/>