

## CAPITOL UPDATE - Week Ending March 13, 2026

YOUR BILL TRACKER: [CoSEA](#)

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

#### ALMOST HALFWAY THERE

Saturday will be the 60th day of the 2026 Legislative Session, lawmakers have 60 more days to finish their work. While the pace of floor work, especially in the House, feels like it is moving faster than in past sessions, significant work remains.

There was movement this week on some major issues:

- **Housing:** there were long floor debates on [HB 26-1001](#), which fast-tracks residential development on land owned by non-profit and education organizations. The House accepted Senate amendments to the bill on Friday. [SB 26-001](#), intended to give local governments more flexibility on affordable housing development, passed a House committee.
- **Labor:** proposed revisions to the Labor Peace Act, [HB 26-1005](#), passed the House after lengthy debate and moved to the Senate.

Several bills advanced through committees this week:

- **Credit Cards** – [SB 26-134](#) would eliminate “swipe fees” on taxes for credit cards issued by financial institutions with over \$60B in assets.
- **Lottery** – [SB 26-117](#) would ban the use of credit cards to buy lottery tickets.
- **School Finance** – [SB 25-135](#) is the bill that would ask voters to approve diversion of TABOR refunds to K-12 education.

Two measures of note died in committee, including legalization of prostitution ([SB 26-097](#)) and the bid to reduce the frequency of teacher evaluations ([HB 26-1291](#)).

Friday was the 59th day of the 120-day session.

#### TALLYING THE BILLS

The flow of new bills slowed a bit this week. Here are measures of note:

- **Educator Housing** – [SB 26-139](#) establishes a state loan financing mechanism allowing school districts to apply for grants or lease-purchase agreements to develop workforce housing for educators and staff. Democratic.
- **Health Care** - [HB 26-1327](#) creates the Large Employer Health-Care Support Enterprise to impose a \$2,300 annual fee per supported worker on large employers (those with 500+ workers receiving Medicaid) who do not provide affordable health coverage to workers employed 20+ hours per week. [SB 26-138](#) proposes to streamline regulations and paperwork requirements for health care facilities. Both Democratic.
- **Legislative Operations** – Two bills sponsored by top legislative leaders are direct responses to the state’s budget crisis. [HB 26-1331](#) would significantly cut down on interim committees and their work, and [HB 26-1332](#) shifts \$12 million from legislative funds to the General Fund. Bipartisan.
- **Oversight** – [SB 26-137](#), sponsored by top leaders from both houses and parties, proposes expanded legislative oversight over agency regulations and operations. Bipartisan.
- **Street Racing** – [HB 26-1329](#) criminalizes street takeovers, racing, drag racing, and stunt driving on public highways and roadways, establishing penalties ranging from misdemeanors to felonies depending on the offense and prior convictions. Bipartisan.

As of Friday morning, [471 bills had been introduced](#).

## **THIS WEEK AT THE JBC**

The budget committee is in the home stretch of figure setting for the FY2026-27 budget.

This week was a difficult week with tough cuts made to Medicaid. Members also worked on the Department of Early Childhood and delayed a decision on higher education funding. Friday they worked through a long list of requests and staff recommendations for the entire Judicial branch, the last major piece of figure setting.

JBC has delayed action on some key elements with large dollar impacts of budget balancing for next year, including higher education, state employee compensation, Governor Jared Polis' proposed sale of Pinnacle Assurance, and reclaiming of some overpaid TABOR refunds. Interestingly, K-12 funding is in play as well. This had been thought to be a third rail.

Some members are getting concerned about balancing and this week asked Staff Director Craig Harper where they stood so far. Director Harper said he would give them an update next week before the quarterly revenue forecasts are released on Thursday.

Let me know if you have any questions. All the best,

Heidi

Heidi Wagner Morgan, Principal

[Heidi@WagnerMorganStrategies.com](mailto:Heidi@WagnerMorganStrategies.com)

WagnerMorganStrategies.com

(303) 229-3149