

CAPITOL UPDATE - Week Ending March 27, 2026

YOUR BILL TRACKER: [CoSEA](#)

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS FROM UNDER THE DOME

→ Bulletin: Introduction of the FY2026-27 budget package has been delayed until April 6.

Colorado Agriculture Day is a favorite event during every legislative session. There is the big free lunch, but there is also a lot of speechifying in the House and Senate. Rural lawmakers extol the importance of agriculture; urban legislators recall grandfathers who were farmers.

This year's Ag day – on Wednesday – had a more substantive tone. The House and Senate were simultaneously debating important agriculture-related bills, [HB 26-1339](#) in the House and [SB 26-121](#) in the Senate. The House measure was introduced to rename Colorado's voluntary Cesar Chavez holiday as Farm Workers Day. The Senate measure was more impactful and concerned overtime pay for farmworkers. The Chavez bill ultimately passed the House 64-0 and received preliminary Senate approval after lengthy discussion on Friday. The farmworker overtime measure passed the Senate 19-16.

It was also a noteworthy week for housing affordability, a major issue in recent sessions. Governor Jared Polis held his first public bill signing of the year to approve two key measures. [HB 26-1001](#) requires governments to allow for residential property to be built on land owned by nonprofit organizations, school districts, higher education institutions, and housing and transportation authorities. [SB 26-001](#) allows counties to spend property tax revenue from their general funds on workforce and affordable housing. Another notable measure, [HB 26-1308](#), passed the House 39-26. It would allow residential lot splitting without local government approval in some circumstances.

In other news this week:

- A Senate committee advanced [HB 26-1005](#), the bill that would amend the Colorado Labor Peace Act by eliminating the requirement for a second employee election to unionize.
- House Democratic leaders imposed debate time limits on [HB 26-1320](#), which proposes to simplify ballot measure language, before it passed 41-19.
- The House had long debates over [HB 26-1193](#), the proposal to require mandatory vision tests for pre-kindergarten students. Several GOP members complained it would violate parental rights. It passed 40-22 Friday.
- Both chambers were bogged down in preliminary debates on gun bills late Friday morning. The House was discussing [HB 26-1302](#), which proposes changes in the CBI's InstaCheck unit's operating hours. The Senate was fighting over [HB 26-1144](#), the proposed ban on 3-D gun printing.

Friday was the 73rd day of the 120-day session.

TALLYING THE BILLS

Just a handful of bills were introduced this week, but there were several interesting bills of note:

- Agriculture: Under [HB 26-1340](#), cities or other entities that buy irrigated farmland for the water rights would be required to revegetate that land or use it for dryland farming. Bipartisan.
- Competency: [SB 26-149](#) proposes to expand civil commitment options for people found incompetent to proceed in court. Bipartisan.
- Holidays: [HB 26-1339](#) would change the name of Cesar Chavez Day to Farm Workers Day. Democratic.
- Lobbying: [SB 26-147](#) would make changes in lobbying rules, including requiring state agency lobbyists to file and report as professional lobbyists do. Bipartisan.
- Plastic: [SB 26-146](#) would ban restaurants from providing disposable utensils unless customers request them. Democratic.

As of Friday morning, [489 bills had been introduced](#).

THIS WEEK AT THE JBC

The budget committee struggled this week to finish work on its FY2026-27 budget plan ahead of the originally scheduled March 30th date for introducing the long bill package.

The JBC's work Monday through Thursday focused on [searching the state's couch cushions](#) for stray coins to divert to the General Fund. The committee approved more than \$360 million - a very rough estimate- in sweeps and transfers that bulk up the General Fund, plus one \$15 million cut in Medicaid.

On Friday the committee pushed through review of more committee bills and last-minute pet request suggestions by members.

The big budget news was quietly announced on the floor of the Senate in a report from the delayed bills committee that introduction of the long bill package has been delayed a week until April 6. The delay was expected.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

All the best,
Heidi

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KEY NEWS LINKS FROM THE WEEK

Notable Stories of The Week

- Pinnacol sale bill in limbo (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/03/26/pinnacol-separation-bill-delayed-as-colorado-budget-remains-in-flux-due-to-1-5b-deficit/>
- Housing bills moving quickly (Sum & Substance) - <https://tssc Colorado.com/can-new-laws-solve-the-housing-crisis-gov-polis-bets-his-signature-on-it/>
- Governor signs first housing bills (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/03/25/colorados-push-for-affordable-housing-continues-as-gov-polis-signs-home-act-workforce-housing-bill/>
- Farmworker overtime issue settled (CPR) - <https://www.cpr.org/2026/03/25/two-agricultural-overtime-bills-settled/>
- Polis housing strategy questioned (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2026/03/23/colorado-losing-affordable-housing-proposition-123-preservation/>