



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

Updated June 6, 2014

SUPPORT

- [HB14-1001 Tax Credit for Prop Destroyed By Natural Cause](#)
Rep. Singer (D-Longmont) and Sen. Jeanne Nicholson (D-Black Hawk) (Support 01/21)

Summary: Beginning in the 2013 income tax year, the bill establishes an income tax credit for a taxpayer that owns real or business personal property that was destroyed by natural causes. The amount of the credit is equal to the taxpayer's property tax liability for the destroyed property in the property tax year when the natural cause occurred. A taxpayer is allowed to claim the credit only for the income tax year during which the property was destroyed.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1001 because it provides relief to the communities adversely affected by the recent 2013 fires and floods, which should facilitate the economic recovery of these areas.

Outcome: Passed (5/7)

- [HB14-1002 Water Infrastructure Natural Disaster Grant Fund](#)
Rep. Dave Young (D-Greeley) and Sen. Matt Jones (D-Louisville) (Support 01/21)

Summary: This bill establishes a \$12 million fund for local water and sewer repairs in areas affected by the recent natural disasters and helps to rebuild critical infrastructure.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1002 because it provides relief to the communities adversely affected by the recent 2013 fires and floods, which should also facilitate the economic recovery of these areas.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/17)

- [HB14-1003 Nonresident Disaster Relief Worker Tax Exemption](#)
Rep. Dan Nordberg (R-Colorado Springs) and Sen. John Kefalas (D-Fort Collins) (Support 01/21)

Summary: This bill exempts nonresident individuals from the state income tax if they perform disaster emergency-related work in the state on certain infrastructure. The exemption is only effective for work performed from the time the governor declares a disaster emergency through 60 days after the declaration expires.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1003 because it simplifies and minimizes the impact on non-resident employees called in to assist in disaster recovery efforts. This should facilitate the economic recovery of these areas.

Outcome: House Concurrence (5/2)



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- [HB14-1011 Advanced Industry Economic Development Funding](#)
Rep. Dave Young (D-Greeley) and Sen. Rollie Health (D-Boulder) (Support 01/14)

Summary: The bill requires each of the 4 annual transfers from the general fund to the advanced industries export acceleration cash fund to be made 6 months earlier. Any unexpended and unencumbered moneys from an appropriation made from the fund to the office of international trade remain available for expenditure by the office in the next fiscal year without further appropriation.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1011 as it is a part of the Governors Economic Development package which gives incentives for economic growth while being fiscally responsible.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/17)

- [HB14-1012 Advanced Industry Investment Income Tax Credit](#)
Rep. Max Tyler (D- Lakewood) and Sen. John Kefalas (D-Fort Collins) (01/14)

Summary: The bill repeals the Colorado innovation investment tax credit and replaces it with the advanced industry investment tax credit. The tax credit is available for a qualified investor who, prior to January 1, 2018, makes an equity investment in a qualified small business from the advanced industries, which consists of advanced manufacturing, aerospace, bioscience, electronics, energy and natural resources, information technology, and infrastructure engineering.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1012 as it is a part of the Governors Economic Development package which gives incentives for economic growth while being fiscally responsible.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/29)

- [HB14-1013 Advanced Industries Workforce Development Program](#)
Rep. Pete Lee (D- Colorado Springs) and Sen. Nancy Todd (D-Aurora) (Support 01/14)

Summary: The bill creates the advanced industries workforce development program in the Colorado office of economic development. The purpose of the program is to allow the office to reimburse a business for one-half of its expenses related to a qualifying internship or apprenticeship.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1013 as it is a part of the Governors Economic Development package which gives incentives for economic growth while being fiscally responsible.

Outcome: Dead in Senate Appropriations Committee (5/1)



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- [HB14-1014 –Modify Job Growth Incentive Tax Credit](#)
Rep. Brian DelGrosso (R-Loveland) and Sen. Rollie Heath (D- Boulder) (Support 01/14)

Summary: This bill modifies the job growth incentive tax credit by extending the tax credit claim period from 60 months to 96 months, lowering the average wage match from 110% to 100%, and changing the standard for commission's approval of a project to "a substantial factor".

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1014 as it is a part of the Governors Economic Development package which gives incentives for economic growth while being fiscally responsible.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/16)

- [HB14-1015 Extend Transitional Jobs Program](#)
Rep. Kraft-Tharp (D-Arvada) and Sen. Andy Kerr (D-Lakewood) (Support 01/21)

Summary: The current law directs the department of human services to administer a transitional jobs program through December 30, 2014. The bill extends the program through December 30, 2016.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14-1015 as it promotes job growth.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/15)

- [HB14-1016 Procurement Technical Assistance Program](#)
Rep. Su Ryden (D- Aurora) and Sen. Nancy Todd (D-Aurora) (Support 01/14)

Summary: The procurement technical assistance program in Colorado is a public-private partnership that provides procurement assistance to businesses throughout the state. The procurement technical assistance program has a target budget of \$800,000 per year, of which 50% is provided by the state and donations obtained by an organization that provides procurement technical assistance (qualified entity) and 50% is provided by the federal government. The bill requires the Colorado office of economic development (office) to enter into a contract with one or more qualified entities for up to 6 years to provide procurement technical assistance to businesses statewide.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1016 as it is a part of the Governors Economic Development package which gives incentives for economic growth while being fiscally responsible.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/21)



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- [HB14-1017 Expand Availability of Affordable Housing](#)

Rep. Chrisanta Duran (D-Denver) and Sen. Jessie Ulibarri (D-Commerce City) (Support 01/21)

Summary: This bill reinstates the Low Income Housing tax credit program administered by CHFA which provided an income tax credit for tax years 2001 and 2001, for owners of qualified low-income housing developments. The total amount of income tax credits authorized by this bill is \$40 million. During the committee process the bill was amended to add ceilings on the loan guarantee portion of the bill and also ease credit allocation constraints when a natural disaster has occurred. The bill also makes several changes to both the Home Investment Trust Fund and Housing Development Grant Fund.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1017, which supports allowing qualified residents access to affordable housing. With a qualified resident meaning an occupant of a residential unit in a qualified development whose household income is not more than 30% of the adjusted median income of the area in which the qualified development is located. The Chamber believes that people should have the access and availability to have home ownership in their plans. The bill would not only does build community and the economy of the community, but would also be an important component to personal equity growth allowing millennials to build equity.

Outcome: House Concurrence (4/22)

- [HB14-1026 Water Flexible Markets](#)

Rep. Randy Fischer (D-Fort Collins) and Sen. Gail Schwartz (D-Snowmass) (Support 01/21)

Summary: This bill creates a more flexible system in which land owners can apply to change their use of irrigation water. Under this proposed legislation, land owners who apply for a change of use with the Water Resources Committee would not have to specify the proposed use as long as it is intended to prevent the permanent dry-up of irrigated lands.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1026, as it gives additional flexibility of irrigation of water rights. The Chamber feels this is beneficial to the economy and business.

Outcome: Dead in Senate Agricultural Committee (5/5)

- [HB14-1033 Regulatory Reform Act of 2014](#)

Rep. Libby Szabo (R-Arvada) and Sen. Lois Tochtrop (D-Thornton) (Support 01/21)

Summary: This bill would direct state regulatory authorities to issue a written warning rather than a fine to any small business (fewer than 100 employees) in violation of a new rule of the agency so long as the violation is not related to health or safety.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14-1033 because it gives the opportunity for small businesses to learn the new rules of the agencies before receiving various fines when the violations do not affect health or safety.

Outcome: Dead in House State Affairs Committee (3/6)



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- [HB14-1053 Consistent Requirements Pediatric Dental Benefits](#)
Rep. Elizabeth McCann (D-Denver) and Sen. Irene Aguilar (D-Denver) (Support 01/21)

Summary: This bill requires pediatric dental benefits in health benefit plans offered in this state be consistent regardless of whether a plan is purchased via the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange or outside the exchange.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14-1053, as pediatric dental benefits are important and the bill requires plans that are consistent regardless of where the health plans are purchased.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (2/19)

- [HB14-1138 Renewable Energy Std Add Hydroelectric to Eligible](#)
Rep. Stephen Humphrey (R-Severance) and Sen. Lois Tochtrop (D-Thornton) (Support 01/27)

Summary: The bill amends the definition of "renewable energy resources" that can be used to meet the state's renewable energy standard to include hydroelectricity and pumped hydroelectricity.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1138. The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14-1138. The Chamber is supportive of renewable energy and alternate sources of energy and believes hydropower is a renewable resource that should factor into energy standards.

Outcome: Dead in House Transportation Committee (2/6)

- [HB14-1159 Biogas System Components Sales & Use Tax Exemption](#)
Rep. Dave Young (D-Greeley) and Sen. Gail Schwartz (D-Snowmass) (Support 01/27)

Summary: The bill exempts components used in biogas production systems from state sales and use tax components. Local governments may exempt them from their sales or use taxes.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1159 because it supports biogas as a renewable energy resource.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/17)

- [HB14-1163 Clarify Enterprise Zone Investment Tax Credit Cap](#)
Rep. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst (D-Gunbarrel) and Sen. Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) (Support 01/27)

Summary: The Bill provides specific language necessary to correct a draft error in last year's bill, HB13 – 1142, which provided a cap on tax credits.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1163. The clarifying language is consistent with language of HB13 – 1142, which the Chamber supported.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (3/27)



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- [HB14-1178 Sales & Use Tax Exemption for Space Flight Prop](#)
Rep. Mark Ferrandino (D-Denver) and Sen. Mary Hodge (D-Brighton) (Support 02/03)

Summary: The bill creates a sales and use tax exemption for qualified property used in space flight and outlines the reporting requirements for the exemption.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1178. The bill provides a sales and use tax exemption for qualified property for the use in space flight. This exemption would encourage private-sector investment and would help stimulate private – sector aerospace industry growth. This supports one of Colorado’s key industry clusters.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/21)

- [HB14-1269 Marketplace Fairness & Small Business Protection](#)
Rep. Lois Court (D-Denver) and Sen. Mike Johnston (D-Denver) (Support 02/18)

Summary: The state imposes a sales tax collection obligation on every retailer or vendor, and the terms "retailer" and "vendor" are defined to include every person doing business in this state and selling to the user or consumer, and not for resale. The state also imposes a use tax collection

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1269. If passed, it would simplify Colorado’s tax system and provide for new revenue by allowing the state the authority to collect sales tax revenue from out-of-state retailers and online retailers. Also it would allow for home rule cities to maintain their existing tax structures while partaking in the revenue generated by the taxation of out-of-state retailers by accepting the state’s administration and distribution of local sales tax on remote sales tax only. For these reasons, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14-1269.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (6/6)

- [HB14-1279 Income Tax Credit For Business Personal Property](#)
Rep. Dianne Primavera (D-Broomfield) and Sen. Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) (Support 02/18)

Summary: The bill creates an income tax credit to reimburse a qualifying taxpayer for personal property taxes paid in Colorado where the taxpayer does not already receive a state or federal income tax benefit.

To qualify for a tax credit, a taxpayer must have \$25,000 or less worth of personal property where property taxes are paid in Colorado during an income tax year beginning in 2014, or have less than an inflation-adjusted amount for each income tax year thereafter. The amount of the credit that exceeds a taxpayer's income taxes is refunded to the taxpayer.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14 – 1279. On principle, the Chamber supports reducing, if not eliminating, the burden of business personal property taxes. Colorado’s business personal property tax has put the state at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to attracting new industries.

Outcome: House Concurrence (5/6)



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- [HB14-1292 Student Success Act](#)

Rep. Millie Hamner (D-Dillon) and Rep. Carol Murray (R-Castle Rock) and Sen. Mike Johnston (D-Denver) (Support 03/04)

Summary: The Student Success Act, House Bill 14-1292 would give funds to districts to help pay for implementing recent reform laws, construction funding, improving programs for English language learners, early literacy programs, a new enrollment counting system, a new school budget transparency system and additional funding for charter school facilities. The bill also would provide a \$100 million increase in total program funding.

Chamber Support: The Chamber supports the Student Success Act as it aligns with many of the education reforms that the Chamber has historically supported, which provide accountability and effectiveness. The Chamber supported SB13 – 213 last year, which among other reforms, established a more equitable, efficient and transparent system to financing Colorado’s public schools, including charter schools.

The Student Success Act provides funding for several education reforms that will improve education and ultimately strengthen Colorado’s workforce and stimulate economic growth. The bill makes smart and fiscally responsible investments in critical areas of need like early literacy (READ ACT), technology and capital construction. We believe these education reforms will have a positive impact on Colorado’s work force.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/21)

- [HB14-1316 Procurement Availability Utilization Analysis](#)

Rep. Angela Williams (D-Denver) and Sen. Jessie Ulibarri (D-Commerce City) (Support Conditional on Funding)

Summary: This legislation directs the Department of Personnel to commission a study to determine whether disparities exist in the state procurement system between the participation of historically underutilized businesses and other businesses. "Historically underutilized business" is defined as businesses owned by racial or ethnic minorities, women, veterans or persons with disabilities.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14–1316 because the analysis outlined in the bill will provide information to determine if the state procurement system provides an equitable bidding process.

Outcome: Lost (5/5)

- [HB14-1318 Continuation Enhanced Unemployment Insurance Benefits](#)

Rep. Dicky Lee Hullinghorst (D-Gunbarrel) and Sen. Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) (Support 03/17)

Summary: The bill extends unemployment insurance benefits for unemployed individuals participating in approved training programs for three years to June 30, 2017. The cost is \$4 million per year from the General Fund.

Chamber Support: The Chamber supports HB14-1318 because it promotes workforce development and training and is funded via General Fund dollars rather than the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Outcome: Dead In House Appropriations Committee (4/10)



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- [HB14-1326 Tax Incentives for Alternative Fuel Trucks](#)

Rep. Dianne Primavera (D-Broomfield) and Sen. Mary Hodge (D-Brighton) (Support 03/24)

Summary: This bill provides an income tax credit for the purchase or conversion of electric trucks over 8,500 lbs.; trucks equipped to operate on liquefied natural gas and hydrogen (in addition to natural gas and petroleum); and clean fuel refrigerated trailers, as well as use of EPA's Smartway verified technology and other tax credits, dependent on truck classification.

Chamber Support: The Chamber supports HB14-1326 because it expands an existing tax credit to include heavy duty alternative fuel vehicles and supports efforts to get more low-emission vehicles on the road.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (6/6)

- [HB14-1327 Measures to Expand Deployment Communications Networks](#)

Rep. Angela Williams (D- Denver) and Sen. Mark Scheffel (R- Parker) (Support 03/31)

Summary: This bill requires local governments to process a complete application for colocation of a wireless service facility within 90 days and complete applications for new structures within 150 days. Additionally, the bill requires local governments to accept consolidation permits for wireless networks. The bill also grants broadband providers the right to construct, maintain and operate facilities along any public highway. Attached to this bill are state sales and use tax exemptions (as well as county, city or town) for the sale or lease to a broadband provider's network for the provision of broadband service.

Chamber Support: The Chamber supports HB14-1327 because it creates a state sales and use tax exemption for telecom equipment used in the provision of broadband services to unserved areas of Colorado, as defined in the bill. This is important for the growth of the industry and brings broadband capabilities to rural Colorado.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/9)

- [HB14-1328 Connect Colorado Broadband Act](#)

Rep. Angela Williams (D- Denver) and Sen. Jeanne Nicholson (D- Black Hawk) (Support 03/31)

Summary: Currently, the Colorado high-cost support mechanism (HCSM) reimburses telecommunications service providers for some of the cost of providing telephone service to high-cost rural areas. The bill adds broadband service in unserved areas to the list of reimbursable services. The bill also creates a broadband fund and a broadband deployment board to facilitate the funding of broadband projects.

Chamber Support: The Chamber supports HB14-1328 because it provides funds for additional broadband services to underserved areas, which will help promote economic development, increase distance learning and remote access to health care in Colorado.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/10)



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- [HB14-1329 Deregulate Internet Protocol Emerging Tech Telecom](#)
Rep. Angela Williams (D-Denver) and Sen. Andy Kerr (D- Lakewood) (Support 03/31)

Summary: The bill deregulates advanced features offered and provided to residential and nonresidential customers with no more than five lines, such as premium services, various tolls, private line service, operator services and internet protocol (IP) services, including voice-over-IP (VOIP).

Chamber Support: The Chamber supports HB14-1329 because it enhances competition by cutting back on unnecessary regulation. The bill will help promote the economic development in Colorado and increase access to advanced telecommunications technology in Colorado.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/9)

- [HB14-1330 Updating Telecommunications Technology Language](#)
Rep. Angela Williams (D-Denver) and Sen. Lois Tochtrop (D- Thornton) (Support 03/31)

Summary: With the advancement of telecommunications technologies, Colorado statutes governing telecommunications policy are outdated. The bill updates definitions to encompass new technologies and terms and repeals language related to outdated technologies, terms and expired statutory deadlines.

Chamber Support: The Chamber supports HB14-1330 because it updates statutes with current definitions and terms.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/9)

- [HB14-1331 Regulate Basic Local Exchange Service](#)
Rep. Angela Williams (D- Denver) and Sen. Jeanne Nicholson (D- Black Hawk) (Support 03/31)

Summary: This bill deregulates basic local exchange service and other related services. Additionally, it clarifies that basic local exchange service providers may be reimbursed from the high-cost support mechanism, regardless of whether basic local exchange service is regulated. The bill also provides that an incumbent local exchange carrier remains subject to any obligations as provider of last resort and must charge a uniform price for basic service throughout its service territory.

Chamber Support: The Chamber supports HB14-1331 because it deregulates competitive telecom services. The bill will help promote the economic development in Colorado and supports improved technology in Colorado with less regulation.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (5/9)



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- [HB14-1351 Maintain State's Relationship with U.S. Military](#)

Rep. Dan Nordberg (R-Colorado Springs), Rep. Ryden (D-Aurora) and Sen. Nancy Todd (D-Aurora), Sen. Bernie Herpin (R-Colorado Springs) (Support 04/14)

Summary: The bill requires that the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, in addition to its general duties, maintain the state's positive interactions with the U.S. armed forces by advocating for the state's involvement in current and potential military missions, supporting private Colorado businesses that bid for contracts with the U.S. military and assisting the state's congressional delegation in protecting Colorado's current U.S. armed forces commands from future military base realignments or closures.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14-1351 because this bill demonstrates Colorado's support for military bases and recognizes the military's key role in our economy.

Outcome: Passed (5/6)

- [HB14-1356 Strengthen Penalty Authority Oil & Gas Commission](#)

Rep. Mike Foote (D-Lafayette) and Sen. Matt Jones (D-Louisville) (Support 04/07)

Summary: This bill increases the maximum daily penalty for a violation of the Oil and Gas Conservation Act to \$15,000; directs the commission to adopt rules that specify a process for determining the dates on which a violation begins and ends; provides transparency via a website for penalty specifics; and repeals the cap on the maximum total penalty.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14-1356 because this bill updates the previous rules and regulations specifying a process for determining the dates on which a violation begins and ends.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (6/6)

- [HB14-1377 Colorado Retirement Security Task Force](#)

Rep. Mark Ferrandino (D-Denver), Rep. John Buckner (D-Aurora) and Sen. Pat Steadman (D-Denver), Sen. Lois Tochtrop (D-Thornton) (Support 04/21)

Summary: The bill creates the Colorado retirement security task force in the legislative branch to develop recommendations for increasing the percentage of residents in the state who have adequate retirement security. The bill directs the task force to consider specified factors and develop certain recommendations in the course of its duties. The task force is required to submit a report, including legislature recommendations, to provide greater retirement security for state residents.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14-1377 because it elevates the dialogue about a critical issue: retirement savings. As a business community, we have an interest in ensuring Coloradans have more retirement security. The Chamber welcomes the opportunity to take part in discussion because as a business community we recognize the need for and benefit of increasing retirement savings in Colorado.

Outcome: Lost (5/6)



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- [HB14-1383 Workers' Compensation Physician Choice](#)

Rep. Angela Williams (D-Denver) and Sen. Lois Tochtrop (D-Thornton), Sen. Jessie Ulibarri (D-Commerce City) (Support 04/21)

Summary: Current law requires an employer or workers' compensation insurer to provide a choice of at least two physicians (from two separate practices) to an injured employee. The bill changes that number to four physicians. The bill also includes an exemption for rural areas where there are more than three but fewer than nine physicians within 30 miles of the employer's place of business.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14–1383 because Colorado has a competitive advantage to other states in the area of workers' compensation costs. The bill reflects months of negotiations and is in the interest of our members because it has no impact on cost and is expected to have minimal impact on cost and took other costly proposed workers comp changes off the table.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (6/5)

- [HB14-1389 Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Certain IT Equipment](#) – Rep. Dan Pabon (D-Denver), Rep. Brian DelGrosso (R-Loveland) and Sen. Mark Scheffel (R-Parker) (Support 4/28)

Summary: The bill provides a sales and use tax exemption for the sale, storage and use of IT equipment used in a qualified data center or a qualified refurbished data center. The bill includes equipment that is purchased to replace or upgrade IT equipment and IT equipment that is relocated to the state.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HB14–1389 because the bill will promote investment in IT and data centers and increase advanced technology in Colorado.

Outcome: Dead in Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee (5/6)

- [HCR14-1002 Constitutional Initiative Petition Signatures](#)

Rep. Lois Court (D-Denver), Don Coram (R-Montrose) and Sen. Larry Crowder (R-Alamosa), Sen. Gail Schwartz (D-Snowmass) (Support 04/21)

Summary: The resolution would put amend the constitution to require double the number of signatures required for a ballot initiative that amends the state constitution. It also adds a new requirement that a portion of those signatures be collected from each congressional district in the state. The standard applies to both statutory and constitutional amendments.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports HCR14–1002 because the resolution aligns with the Chamber's historic position of finding strategies to make it more difficult to amend Colorado's constitution.

Outcome: Dead in Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee (4/30)



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- [SB14-001 College Affordability Act](#)

Sen. Cheri Jahn (D-Wheat Ridge) and Rep. Leroy Garcia (D-Pueblo) (Support 01/27)

Summary: The bill appropriates \$100 million to the department of higher education for financial aid, the college opportunity fund program and the state institutions of higher education. The bill also would cap tuition increase at 6 percent.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports SB14 – 001 as introduced because it provides additional funding for higher education and establishes a tuition increase cap. The Chamber supports additional funding for and accessibility to higher education.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (5/1)

- [SB14-011 Colorado Energy Research Authority](#)

Sen. Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) and Rep. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst (D-Gunbarrel) (Support 01/27)

Summary: The bill changes the name of the Colorado “renewable” research authority to the Colorado “energy” research authority. The bill creates the energy research cash fund, which would provide \$2 million per year for the next 5 years to the research authority.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports SB14 – 011 because it broadens the research beyond renewable energy and makes additional funds available for energy research by an organization with proven return on investment.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (5/16)

- [SB14-057 Continuation Enhanced Unemployment Ins](#)

Sen. Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) and Rep. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst (D-Gunbarrel) (Support 03/04)

Summary: The bill extends unemployment insurance benefits for unemployed individuals participating in approved training programs for three years to June 30, 2017. The cost is \$4 million per year.

Chamber Support: The Chamber supports SB14 – 057, subject to amendment. The Chamber supports workforce development programs, like those included in training programs associated with this bill, that help workers gain skills and expand the pool of skilled workers needed to fill current and future jobs. The Chamber supports SB14 – 057 subject to an amendment that would provide funding from the General Fund and not the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Outcome: Dead in Senate Business, Labor & Technology Committee (4/30)



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- [SB14-063 Mandatory Review Of State Agency Rules](#)

Sen. Vicki Marble (R-Littleton) and Rep. Lori Saine (R-Dacono) (Support 01/27)

Summary: The bill codifies an executive order of the governor on the review of executive branch agency rules. No later than January 1, 2015, each principal department in state government is required to review its existing rules to determine whether the rules should be continued in their current form, amended, or repealed.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports SB14 – 063. The Chamber supports the Governor’s executive order to review existing executive branch agency rules to determine if they need amendments, repeals or should be kept in their current form.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (3/27)

- [SB14-073 Brownfield Contaminated Land Income Tax Credit](#)

Sen. Cheri Jahn (D-Wheat Ridge) and Rep. Cheri Gerou (R-Evergreen) (02/10)

Summary: The bill reauthorizes the credit for a 9-year period commencing in 2014 as follows: the property can be located anywhere in the state; the remediation need not be for property that will be redeveloped; a formula for calculating the amount of the credit is specified; and the credit may be transferred by a taxpayer to a transferee who may then claim the credit. It allows certain local governments and private nonprofit entities to transfer a portion of these expenses to transferees who may then claim the amounts as an income tax credit.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports SB14 -073. The bill renews existing prior program that promotes remediation of brownfields, which facilitates economic development in those areas.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (5/15)

- [SB14-093 Pipeline Right of Way](#)

Sen. Cheri Jahn (D-Wheat Ridge) and Rep. Jenise May (D-Aurora) (Support 01/27)

Summary: This bill specifies that pipeline companies that convey oil and gas products have the right of eminent domain like other pipeline and utility companies to acquire rights of way. A pipeline company must also comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, but not limited to, federal pipeline safety regulations.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports SB14 – 093. The bill permits authority to pipeline companies to obtain rights of way and is consistent with other utilities and supports development of infrastructure for the oil and gas industry.

Outcome: Deemed Lost (5/9)



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- [SB14-102 Employment Opportunity Act Financial Institutions](#)

Sen. Jessie Ulibarri (D-Commerce City) (Support 01/27)

Summary: Under current law, an employer may use consumer credit information for employment purposes if the information is substantially related to the employee's current or potential job. The bill allows bank or financial institution employers to use consumer credit information for employment purposes by amending the definition of "substantially related to the employee's current or potential job" to include positions held at banks or financial institutions.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports SB14 – 102. The Chamber recognizes the importance of being able to use consumer credit information as part of the employment process for banks or financial institutions

Outcome: Signed by Governor (3/27)

- [SB14-103 Phase In High-efficiency Water Fixture Options](#)

Sen. Lucia Guzman (D-Denver) and Rep. Randy Fischer (D-Fort Collins) (Support 01/27)

Summary: The bill defines a "water sense-listed plumbing fixture" and prohibits the sale of lavatory faucets, shower heads, flushing urinals, tank-type toilets and tank-type water closets that are not water-sense listed on and after September 1, 2016.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports SB14 – 103 because the Chamber is supportive of water efficiency initiatives and this bill provides a transition period for retailers.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (6/6)

- [SB14 – 166 Create By Colorado App to Promote Businesses in Colorado](#)

Sen. Morgan Carroll (D-Aurora) and Sen. George Rivera (R-Pueblo) and Rep. Max Tyler (D-Lakewood) and Rep. Leroy Garcia (D-Pueblo) (Support 03/24)

Summary: The bill directs the Colorado Office of Economic Development to contract for the creation of a mobile app that identifies and sorts local businesses in Colorado. Local businesses are defined as businesses that are owned, located, headquartered or manufacture in the state of Colorado.

Chamber Support: The Chamber supports SB14–166 because the app that would result supports and promotes Colorado business.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (5/29)



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

- [SB14-187 Colorado Commission Affordable Health Care](#)

Sen. Irene Aguilar (D-Denver), Sen. Ellen Roberts (R-Durango) and Rep. Sue Schafer (D-Wheat Ridge), Rep. Amy Stephens (R- Colorado Springs) (Support 04/14)

Summary: The bill creates the Colorado Commission on Affordable Health Care and tasks the commission with studying and making recommendations regarding health care costs, focusing on evidence-based cost controls and access and quality of care. The governor and legislative leadership from both houses and parties are to appoint the 12-member commission, assuring representation from across the state and by individuals with expertise in various subject areas, including health care administration, financing, delivery and consumption. The commission is to make recommendations regarding legislative and regulatory modifications that could make health care affordable while improving access and quality of health care. The commission is repealed on July 1, 2017.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports SB14-187 because the commission established by the bill could help inform strategies for managing health care insurance in Colorado. The Chamber supports efforts to improve efficiency and reduce the growth rate of health care costs, and a commission focused on studying cost should have a positive effect on health care in Colorado.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (5/29)

- [SB14-209 Insurer Investments in Real Property NAIC Model](#)

Sen. Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) and Rep. Max Tyler (D-Lakewood)

Summary: Current law limits the investments insurers may make in mortgage loans and similar investment instruments to those secured by property located in the United States and that have loan-to-value ratios of 80 percent, in most cases. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) recommends changes to those limitations in regards to certain investments. The bill adopts the NAIC's recommendations.

Chamber Support: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports SB14-209 because the Chamber believes it will allow insurers to diversify their investments in real property to include properties in both the U.S. and Canada.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (6/9)



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

- [SB14-214 PERA Studies Conducted by Actuarial Firm](#)
Sen. Kent Lambert (R-Colorado Springs) and Rep. Cheri Gerou (R-Evergreen)

Summary: The bill requires the state personnel director to contract with a third party to perform a total compensation study that includes the retirement benefits provided by PERA and submit an addendum to the total compensation study, including retirement benefits, to the governor and the joint budget committee. In addition, the bill requires the state auditor, in cooperation with PERA, to contract with a nationally recognized and enrolled actuarial firm to conduct various analyses of PERA.

Chamber Support: The Chamber supports SB14–214 because the use of a third-party actuarial firm and the state auditor adds transparency to PERA. This assures an efficient operation for PERA and prudent management of its risks and liabilities.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (6/4)

- [SB14-220 - Common Interest Community Arbitrate Construction Defect Litigation](#)
Rep. Jonathan Singer (D-Boulder) and Rep. Brian DelGrosso (R-Loveland); Sen. Jesse Ulibarri (D-Arvada) and Sen. Mark Scheffel (R- Parker) (Support 4/28)

Summary: The bill requires more consumer disclosure and approval prior to the filing of a construction defect lawsuit. The bill states that when the declaration, bylaws or rules of a common interest community require mediation or arbitration of construction defect claims and the requirement is later removed, mediation or arbitration is still required for a construction defect claim based on an alleged act or omission that occurred when the mediation or arbitration requirement was in place.

Chamber Support: The Chamber supports SB14–220. The Chamber has been working on this bill through a broad coalition of parties concerned with the lack of condominium construction in Colorado compared to other parts of the country. This bill takes modest steps toward increasing owner awareness and engagement prior to entering into construction defect litigation and preserves provisions for dispute resolution contained in the original purchase contract.

Outcome: Dead in Senate Judiciary Committee (5/7)



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

OPPOSE

- [HB14-1058 Voluntary Labeling Genetically Engineered Food](#)
Rep. Jeanne Labuda (D-Denver) (Opposed 01/21)

Summary: The bill defines "genetically engineered" and sets a basic standard, which a Colorado producer can legally label their product non-genetically engineered.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes HB14 – 1058 as it creates a new definition for Genetically Modified foods, which is unnecessary and a new standard that is arbitrary. This bill would negatively impact the Colorado food science and agriculture industries.

Outcome: Dead in House Health Information Exchange Committee (2/3)

- [HB14-1065 Motor Carrier Transp Self-indemnity Contracts Void](#)
Rep. Dominick Moreno (D-Commerce City) and Sen. Mary Hodge (D-Brighton) (Oppose 01/27)

Summary: The bill prohibits a party to a transportation contract from requiring indemnity from liability resulting from that entities own negligence.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes HB14 – 1065. The bill interferes with a business' right to a private contract and with the ability of private property owners to set the conditions under which other individuals may enter their property.

Outcome: Signed by Governor (3/24)

- [HB14-1091 Accurate Experience Modification Workers' Comp](#)
Rep. Spencer Swalm (R-Centennial) and Sen. Cheri Jahn (D-Wheat Ridge) (Oppose 01/27)

Summary: This bill permits an employer to request a recalculation of its Experience Modification Rate (EMR) after the closure of any claim if the carrier over-reserved for that claim. The purpose is to lower the EMR, especially in high-risk industries. However, this results in administrative costs and premium cost shifts that will be borne by the majority of employers.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes HB14 – 1091. The bill adds administrative and premium costs that would result in shifts to the majority of employers in Colorado.

Outcome: Dead in House Economic and Business Development Committee (2/28)



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

- [HB14-1108 Copayments For Physical Rehabilitation Services](#)

Rep. Dianne Primavera (D-Broomfield) and Sen. Lois Tochtrop (D-Thornton) (Oppose 01/27)

Summary: The bill prohibits an insurance carrier from charging an insured person a copayment for physical rehabilitation services that is greater than the copayment charged for a visit to a primary care physician. The amount charged may not be more than 20 percent of the amount the carrier pays to the provider for the office visit.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes HB14 – 1108. The bill is a mandate that will raise health care costs for businesses in the state and interferes with private insurance contracts.

Outcome: Vetoed by Governor (3/28)

- [HB14-1120 Tax Increase Approval By 2014 For School Finance](#)

Rep. Chris Holbert (R-Parker) and Sen. Greg Brophy (R-Wray) (Oppose 01/27)

Summary: Under current law, the new "Public School Finance Act" and related statutory provisions take effect upon approval by voters of an increase in tax revenues sufficient to fund the new Act and programs held no later than November 2017. This bill changes the date from 2017 to 2014.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce has long supported education as one of the pillars for a healthy and thriving economy. Last year, the Chamber strongly supported SB13 – 213, which would establish a more equitable, efficient and transparent system to financing Colorado's public schools, including charter schools. The Chamber opposes HB14 – 1120, which would sunset the provisions of SB13 – 213 this year.

Outcome: Dead in House Education Committee (2/13)

- [HB14-1165 Private Construction Contract Retainage & Payments](#)

Rep. Randy Fischer (D-Fort Collins) and Sen. Lois Tochtrop (D-Thornton) (Oppose 02/18)

Summary: The bill requires property owners who contract for improvements in commercial property to pay 95% of the amount due; limiting the amount of retainage to 5% and pay subcontractors the retainage after the work is accepted. Failure to pay makes the person liable for attorney fees and interest.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes HB14 – 1165. The bill interferes with a business' right to a private contract and with the ability of private property owners to set the conditions under which other individuals may enter their property. In doing this it diminishes leverage in the business transaction.

Outcome: Dead in House Economic and Business Development Committee (2/28)



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

- [HB14-1192 - Repeal Health Benefit Exchange](#)

Rep. Janak Joshi (R- Colorado Springs) and Sen. Kevin Lundberg (R- Berthoud) (Oppose 02/10)

Summary: HB14 - 1192 would repeal the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange, which was created in 2011 by SB11-200

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes HB14 – 1192. The bill would repeal the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange, which was created in 2011 by SB11-200.

The Chamber testified in support of the state legislation, SB11-200, which authorized the creation of the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange (COHBE). SB11-200 created the Colorado-specific Health Exchange which authorized the state to establish the structure and implementation timeline for the Colorado Exchange as opposed to defaulting to the federal program. The COHBE gives small businesses, their employees and individuals access to coverage. The Chamber maintains its support for a state solution, recognizing that Colorado’s business community benefit from state level control of health care costs for its companies and their employees.

Outcome: Dead in House Public Health Committee (3/12)

- [HB14-1226 Local Government Authority to Regulate Plastics](#)

Rep. Jeanne Labuda (D-Denver) (Oppose 02/10)

Summary: A local government is currently not allowed to require or prohibit the use or sale of specified types of plastic materials or products or to restrict or mandate containers, packaging, or labeling for any consumer product. The bill repeals this restriction and gives local governments the authority to regulate the packaging of products.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes HB14 – 1226. The bill would result in different packaging standards in each local municipality and add costs to businesses and consumers. The Chamber supports a uniform set of standards, regulations and rules, which creates a vibrant economic environment.

Outcome: Dead in House Business Committee (2/14)

- [HB14-1268 Non - probationary Teacher No Indefinite Leave](#)

Rep. Joe Salazar (D-Thornton) and Sen. Nancy Todd (D-Aurora) (Oppose 02/10)

Summary: The bill provides that, if the teacher held non-probationary status as of May 20, 2010, the school district cannot place the teacher on unpaid leave, but must either assign the teacher to a position that has the same level of salary and benefits as the teacher would have earned if he or she had not been removed or dismiss the teacher in compliance with the statutory due process requirements.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes HB14 – 1268. The Chamber supports a high performing education system and quality instruction. This bill would reverse some key provisions of SB10 – 191, which created a system to develop greater accountability for educators and principals. The Chamber continues to be supportive of SB10 – 191 in its entirety.

Outcome: Dead in House Education Committee (4/8)



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

- [HB14-1297 Analyze Health Data Regarding Front Range Oil and Gas](#)
Rep. Joann Ginal (D-Fort Collins) and Sen. Irene Aguilar (D-Denver) (Oppose 03/10)

Summary: The bill directs the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to conduct an analysis of human health and quality of life within Larimer, Weld, Boulder and Adams counties with the intent of understanding any possible health or quality of life effects of oil and gas operations on communities within these counties.

Chamber Oppose: The Chamber opposes HB14-1297 because it targets a particular industry and geography, and the Chamber opposes singling out key industries for this type of targeted, presumptive study.

Second, there are currently three separate study efforts underway reviewing the impacts of oil and gas development in the state, which will address the questions regarding human health at issue in this legislation.

The first study is a three-year air-monitoring study led by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in partnership with Colorado State University.

The second study is a five-year comprehensive oil and gas development impact study led by the University of Colorado with a grant from the National Science Foundation.

And the third is a Front Range Air Pollution and Photochemistry Experiment (FRAPPE) field campaign, which is a collaborative effort between the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the University of Colorado, Colorado State University, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and local agencies, including local school districts.

The Chamber believes these studies should be completed before determining whether additional review is warranted. It is not necessary for a fourth study to accomplish the same goal and use additional resources and funding.

Outcome: Dead in Senate Appropriations Committee (4/29)

- [HB14-1343 Peace Officer PTSD Work Comp Coverage](#)
Rep. Jonathan Singer (D-Longmont) and Sen. Lois Tochtrop (D-Thornton) (Oppose 03/31)

Summary: The bill would allow workers' compensation disability coverage for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) suffered by a peace officer. The bill requires an insurer or employer to pay all authorized medical expenses of a peace officer alleged to suffer from work-related PTSD.

Chamber Oppose: The Chamber opposes HB14-1343 because this bill adds costs to the workers' compensation insurance pool, which increases insurance costs for employers.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (6/6)



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

- [HB14-1375 Urban Redevelopment Fairness Act](#)
Rep. Brian DelGrosso (R-Loveland) and Sen. Lois Tochtrop (D-Thornton) (Oppose 04/14)

Summary: The bill makes several modifications to the Urban Renewal Law concerning governance of funds, including requiring at least one commissioner of the authority to be appointed by the board of county commissioners of each county in which an urban renewal project undertaken by the authority is located; requiring all funds remaining in the post-project special fund to be repaid to each public body pro rata in accordance with the special fund percentage rating; and limiting the percentage of property tax increment revenues of any public body to not exceed the percentage of municipal sales tax revenues.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes HB14–1375. While the Chamber does not object to requiring one commissioner of the authority to be appointed by the board of county commissioners of each county because this would provide for additional transparency with the county and city, the Chamber opposes linking the sales tax percentage and property taxes. This will preclude any tax increment financing for future urban renewal projects. Furthermore, this will limit the flexibility to negotiate successful future urban renewal projects that have made effective use of TIF on successful projects across the state.

Outcome: Vetoed By Governor (6/6)

- [HB14-1397 - Consumer Counsel Participation in PUC Rate Cases](#) – **Rep. Leroy Garcia (D-Pueblo) and Sen. Jesse Ulibarri (D-Arvada) (Oppose 4/28)**

Summary: The bill expands the duties of the office of consumer counsel to include consideration of disparities between the rates paid by consumers in different geographic areas of the state; disparities between a utility’s rate increases and the corresponding increase or decrease in the quantity or quality of service provided; disparities between a utility’s reported earnings and the quantity or quality of service provided during the reported earnings period; and the economic situation of the utility’s customers, or of specified classes of its customers, within its service territory, including their ability to absorb rate increases without suffering undue economic or social harm.

The bill also allows the office of consumer counsel to represent those who have had their utility service cut off and applies to all utilities.

Chamber Oppose: The Chamber opposes HB14–1397 because this bill expands the authority and jurisdiction of the Colorado Consumer Counsel to participate in proceedings on behalf of consumers before the Public Service Commission. This is contrary to the best interest of business customers in those proceedings.

Outcome: Dead in House State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee (5/6)



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

- [SB14-010 Manufactured Home Communities](#)

Sen. John Kefalas (D-Fort Collins) and Rep. Randy Fischer (D-Fort Collins) (Oppose 01/21)

Summary: This bill changes a variety of provisions and statutes that govern mobile home parks, including changing the name to Manufactured Home Communities. It affects the business relationship between the Manufactured Home Owner and the Manufactured Community Owner.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes SB14 – 010 because it inappropriately changes the Manufactured Community Owner’s real property rights relative to the Manufactured Home Owner (tenant). It interferes with the use of private property and what owners have the right to do with that property, while putting into place requirements and regulations that do not apply to other similar properties.

Outcome: Dead in Senate Judiciary Committee (2/20)

- [SB14-118 Protections For Individuals With Disabilities](#)

Rep. Jovan Melton (D-Aurora) and Sen. Pat Steadman (D-Denver) (Oppose 04/21)

Summary: This bill conforms several definitions in Colorado statutes related to discrimination based on a disability to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The penalties for discrimination in places of public accommodation, housing and or violations of the rights of an individual with a disability who uses a service animal or a trainer of a service animal are increased to \$3,500, plus plaintiff attorney fees.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes SB14 – 118 because the bill would have a dramatic increase in penalty cost for business.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (5/22)

- [SB14-136 Delay Statewide Testing Study Academic Standards](#)

Sen. Vicki Marble (R-Littleton) and Rep. Lori Saine (R-Dacono) (Oppose 02/03)

Summary: The bill delays by one year administration of the new statewide assessments in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, commonly called the Common Core Standards.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes SB14 – 136. The bill would delay the administration of the new statewide assessments utilizing the, “Common Core Standards”. The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce has long recognized education as one of the pillars of a healthy and thriving economy. The Chamber supports the Common Core Standards and assessments; and opposes any delay in the implementation. With Common Core our students will be prepared with the needed skills to succeed in a 21st century workforce, including an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills. The Common Core Standards allow meaningful education achievement comparisons between the states.

Outcome: Dead in Senate Education Committee (2/14)



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

- [SB14-172 Firefighter Heart Circulatory Malfunction Benefits](#)

Sen. Lois Tochtrop (D-Thornton) and Rep. Tracy Kraft-Tharp (D-Arvada) (Oppose 04/07)

Summary: The bill requires a municipality, special district, fire authority or county improvement district that employs one or more firefighters to maintain accident insurance, self-insure or participate in a self-insurance pool or a multiple employer trust in order to provide benefits for firefighters who suffer from a heart and circulatory malfunction resulting from a work event. The bill sets the minimum and maximum benefits that must be paid to firefighters.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes SB14–172 because the bill sets a presumption that a heart and circulatory malfunction is related to a work event and would increase workers’ compensation insurance costs for employers.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (6/5)

- [SB14-196 FAMILI Insurance Program Wage Replacement](#)

Sen. Jessie Ulibarri (D-Commerce City) and Rep. Joseph Salazar (D-Thornton) (Oppose 04/21)

Summary: The bill creates the family and medical leave insurance (FAMILI) program in the newly created Division of Family and Medical Leave Insurance in the Department of Labor and Employment. The new division would provide partial wage replacement benefits to eligible individuals who take leave from work to care for a new child or a family member with a serious health condition or who are unable to work due to their own serious health condition.

Chamber Oppose: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes SB14-196 because the bill would be costly and burdensome for employers.

Outcome: Dead in Senate Appropriations Committee (5/2)

- [SB14-197 Transportation Enterprise Transparency Act](#)

Sen. Matt Jones (D-Louisville), Sen. Bernie Herpin (R-Colorado Springs) and Rep. Mike Foote (D-Lafayette), Rep. Tracy Kraft-Tharp (D-Arvada) (Oppose 04/21)

Summary: This bill would make changes to the state’s authority to enter into public-private partnerships (P3) for the funding of transportation infrastructure projects. It modifies the board of the high-performance transportation enterprise requiring that a newly appointed member of the board is subject to senate confirmation and is appointed for four-year terms; board members may be reappointed once. The bill also establishes a process for public engagement. It prohibits the enterprise from entering into a P3 that includes any of several different provisions without approval of the legislature.

Chamber Opposes: The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes SB14–197 because it hampers the development and execution of P3s, which the Chamber feels are an effective strategy and funding mechanism to complete much-needed infrastructure projects.

Outcome: Vetoed by Governor (6/4)



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

NEUTRAL

- [HB14-1202 Local Accountability Requirements For School Districts](#)
Rep. Ray Scott (R-Grand Junction) (Oppose 02/03) (Neutral 03/03)

As Amended Summary: HB14-1202 was amended to establish a study to evaluate the effectiveness of state mandated student assessments, also known as standardized tests. The study will look at the implications of the statewide assessment system for school districts, public schools, educators and students.

As Filed Summary: Under current law, each school district is required to administer statewide assessments in various subjects in each of grades three through 11 (statewide testing requirements), and the state board of education (state board) cannot waive this requirement. The bill directs the state board to waive most of the statewide testing requirements for a school district that submits a school district assessment plan that meets specified requirements. The parent of a student who is enrolled in a school district that receives a waiver may excuse his or her child from participating in any standardized assessments, including a statewide assessment. The department cannot penalize a school district, and a school district cannot penalize the student or the student's teacher if a parent excuses his or her child from testing.

Chamber Neutral (03/03/14): On March 3, 2014 the Chamber changed its position from oppose to neutral. Given the amendment provides for an in-depth study of testing effectiveness, the Chamber has decided to take a neutral stance.

Chamber Oppose (02/03/14): The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposed HB14 – 1202 on February 3, 2014. The Chamber believes Colorado Academic Standards are an effective means to assess teacher and student achievement. Because this bill would allow for different standards from district to district, it would erode the ability to make comparisons on achievement, which is a critical component of education reform.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (6/6)



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

- [HB14-1350 Modifications to Regional Tourism Act](#)

Rep. Mark Ferrandino (D-Denver) and Sen. Andy Kerr (D-Lakewood)

As amended summary: An amendment in HB14–1350 specifies that the total cumulative dollar amount and percentage of sales tax increment revenue that can be dedicated to a project as determined by the commission shall not exceed the third-party analyst's calculation of the total cumulative dollar amount and percentage of sales tax increment revenue that can be dedicated to such project by more than 50 percent (not the previous 25 percent). The commission may determine a total cumulative dollar amount and percentage that exceeds those calculated by the third-party analyst by more than 50 percent (not the previously 25 percent) by a unanimous vote of all of the members of the commission.

As filed Summary: The “Colorado Regional Tourism Act” includes a mechanism for one or more local governments to undertake a regional tourism project to create a regional tourism zone in which the project will be built and create a regional tourism authority to use tax increment financing based on state sales tax revenue to finance eligible improvements related to the regional tourism project.

Chamber Neutral (4/14/14): The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce is now neutral on HB14-1350 as a result of amendments that balance the weight given to dollars generated by Colorado residents and non-residents and the ability to consider revenue that would otherwise go to other states.

Chamber Oppose (4/07/14): The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes HB14–1350 because the bill would reduce financing options for regional tourism projects.

Outcome: Signed By Governor (5/31)

- [SB14-005 Wage Protection Act](#)

Sen. Jessie Ulibarri (D-Commerce City) and Rep. Jonathan Singer (D-Longmont) (Opposed 01/21) (Neutral 01/27)

Summary: Current law provides that fines collected by the division are deposited in the General Fund. This bill provides that the fines are deposited in a new wage theft enforcement fund and that an employee is entitled to reasonable attorney fees in an action to recover the minimum wage.

The bill now authorizes the director of the division to establish an administrative procedure to adjudicate wage claims. For wage claims filed with the division for \$7,500 or less, the bill establishes procedures for the division to adjudicate the claim and issue citations and notices of assessments for the amounts due.

Chamber Neutral: On 1/21/14 the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce took an oppose stance on SB14 – 005 with the rationale that the current statute provides adequate protection for employees from wage abuse. The Chamber on 1/27/14 changed position from **opposed** to **neutral**, as a result of significant amendments to the original bill. The amendment provides for an administrative process that the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment can use to investigate wage claims and impose fines up to \$7500.

Outcome: Passed (5/5)



Policy Positions- 2014 Legislative Session

- [SB14-219 Owner-Occupied Affordable Housing Study](#) – Sen. Jessie Ulibarri (D-Commerce City) and Rep. Mark Ferrandino (D-Denver) (Neutral 4/28)

Summary: The bill makes a legislative declaration regarding the shortage of new owner-occupied affordable housing in Colorado. The bill requires the division of housing in the department of local affairs, in consultation with other governmental and private-sector entities, to study and assemble data on the effects of certain factors on new owner-occupied affordable housing in Colorado. The bill requires the division to report to the general assembly on or before March 15, 2015.

Chamber Neutral: The Chamber has taken a neutral position on SB14–219 because much study work has already been done to examine this issue. SB14–220 would implement some of the recommendations from that work. While additional study work would support additional reforms, we find such an effort is redundant and unnecessary.

Outcome: Dead in Senate Appropriations Committee (5/1)