

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015**

**WORKSHOP, 5:00 P.M.
CITY AUDITORIUM
250 N. 5TH STREET**

To become the most livable community west of the Rockies by 2025

1. **Tax-Free Zone:** CMU President Tim Foster will present information on Tax-Free Colorado which is a proposal to help spur employment, economic development and new businesses in economically distressed areas. [Attachment W-1
Supplemental Documents](#)

2. **Potential Text Amendments to the Zoning and Development Code:** Staff is seeking direction from Council for the first 3 potential amendments. These amendments include 1) amending the Code for Bay Doors in Industrial Zones, 2) increasing the size of sign lettering allowed on buildings within the 24 Road Corridor, and 3) establishing different Development Improvement Agreements (DIA) guarantee and security requirements. [Attachment W-2](#)

3. **Legislative Update** [Supplemental Documents](#)

4. **Horizon Drive Update**

5. **Other Business**

6. **Board Reports**

Tax-Free Colorado Talking Points

- Tax-Free Colorado is a proposal to help spur employment, economic development and new businesses in economically distressed areas.
- Why the need?
- Over the past 4 years, the State Office of Budget and Planning shows regional job growth for areas on the Front Range more than double the amount of growth in jobs in economically struggling areas such as Pueblo, Grand Junction and Colorado Springs.
- Or, take for example Colorado home prices across the state. Denver, Ft. Collins/Loveland and Boulder in the 3rd quarter of 2014 saw housing prices at over 115% of their pre-recession peak prices.
- Yet, communities like Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Grand Junction are at 97%, 88% and 72% of their pre-recession prices.
- Colorado is truly a tale of two states.
- Rural Colorado and other outlying areas are in need to tools to spur job growth and economic development.
- Tax Free Colorado is one of those tools.
- Tax Free Colorado provides for a tax-free environment (tax reduction) for qualifying start-ups and expanding businesses. It also incorporates a relationship with academic institutions that will host these new businesses.
- Qualifying businesses locating within an approved tax-free zone may operate for up to 10 years free of sales taxes, property taxes, business taxes, corporate taxes and franchise fees. Employees of these companies will pay no state income tax.
- Only businesses yielding net new jobs will be eligible for the program.
- Net new jobs is defined as: a) new to the state, b) not transferred from employment from another business in the state, c) not filled by an individual employed within the state within the immediately preceding sixty months, d) a full-time wage paying job requiring at least 35 hours per week, and e) is filled for more than six months.
- The goal is to bring in jobs in industries such as advanced materials and manufacturing, medical device manufacturing, aviation, food sciences/processing, machining, biotech and life sciences and other technology related companies.

- Industries such as retail and wholesale businesses, restaurants, law and accounting firms, real estate management, hospitality, retail banking and utilities will not be eligible for this program.
- Four-year or two-year universities, colleges and community colleges located in counties meeting specific criteria showing economic distress will be eligible to apply to participate in the program.
- Universities and colleges will establish program participation policies for interested businesses.
- Businesses and industries that relocate or expand in Colorado will align with a college or university's academic mission. In addition to the new jobs, the plan will allow for: a) development of new knowledge and discovery, b) create new research funding, c) enhance experiential learning opportunities for students, d) promote work force training, and e) invest in areas in need of economic stimulus.
- State and local governments have the ability to opt into the program and will agree to forgo specified tax receipts for ten years in order to participate in this program.
- Qualification for applying counties requires meeting three of following four criteria: (1) Per capita income must be substantially below the state average, (2) Growth of local GDP below the state average over the preceding 5 year period, (3) Unemployment above the state average over 3 years, (4) A net loss of workforce measured over three years.
- Academic institutions in eligible counties will apply to the state Office of Economic Development and International Trade, which will operate the program and publish rules and regulations.
- The state office will establish rules regarding conflict of interest and the designation of an "employee" as well as areas in need of economic stimulus.
- What does this look like on the ground?
- Example:
 - (Local) Colorado Economic Development Organization X goes to a potential medical equipment manufacturer in Bakersfield, CA to recruit them to Colorado.
 - California's business tax environment is not good, so X company decides to relocate to Grand Junction, CO because Mesa County has opted into the Tax Free Colorado program & Grand Junction has met the criteria for being economically distressed.
 - X Company contacts Colorado Mesa University to apply for the Tax Free Colorado Program
 - Colorado Mesa University sends a plan to the state that says that X company will be relocating in Grand Junction and will be working with their Mechanical

Engineering Program, Nursing Program and Business Programs on workforce development, research, internships, etc.

- X Company has fulfilled the requirements for “Net New Jobs”
 - X Company is approved by OEDIT to operate in Grand Junction, CO free of taxes, including income taxes for its employees.
- We need your help to make this a reality!
 - Send a letter to the Governor on your letterhead supporting the effort:
 - John W Hickenlooper, Governor
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792
 - Send an email and call your legislator and ask them for support.
 - Send your logo and letters of support to the campaign so we can add you to our list of advocates: Campaign E-mail-- TaxFreeColorado@gmail.com

FAQs:

- Q. Won't this program diminish the local tax base?
- A. No. The “net new job” requirement ensures that jobs existing in the state today cannot move into a tax-free program. Moreover, new workers to the community will buy homes, cars, groceries, etc. – on which they will pay taxes like the rest of us.
- Q. If properties currently on the tax rolls come into the program, the school district will lose the tax revenue from property taxes, thereby hurting school funding, right?
- A. No. The state funding formula for schools dictates the amount of money each district receives. If there are lower tax receipts from local sources, state monies make up the difference. In TABOR surplus years, this would actually help the state budget.



Date: March 6, 2015

Author: David Thornton

Title/ Phone Ext: Principal
Planner/244-1450

Proposed Meeting Date: March
16, 2015

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT WORKSHOP SESSION

Topic: Potential Text Amendments to the Zoning and Development Code

Staff: Tim Moore, Deputy City Manager
David Thornton, Principal Planner

Summary:

As per Council discussion at a previous City Council workshop, Staff will bring forward potential amendments to the Zoning and Development Code. Staff is seeking direction from Council for the first 3 potential amendments. These amendments include 1) amending the Code for Bay Doors in Industrial Zones, 2) increasing the size of sign lettering allowed on buildings within the 24 Road Corridor, and 3) establishing different Development Improvement Agreements (DIA) guarantee and security requirements.

Background, Analysis and Options:

1. Placement of Bay Doors in Industrial zone districts. Currently loading docks in the I-1 and I-2 zone districts must be located on the side or in the rear of the building. There is no mention of bay doors without loading docks. A Code change is suggested for buildings with bay doors at grade, and not part of a loading dock on the front of a building.
2. Changing the size of lettering for building signs within the 24 Road Corridor Overlay. Many businesses located within the 24 Road Corridor Overlay District boundaries have sought variances to the sign regulations specifically increasing the size of lettering for signs facing 24 Road. These have all been approved through the variance process by the Planning Commission. Removing the variance requirement barrier will help speed up the process for businesses locating within the overlay district.
3. Development Improvements Agreements Guarantee/Security Requirements. The City presently requires a Development Improvement Agreement (DIA) with a security of 120% of the total amount of required public improvements installed as part of any new project or subdivision. Staff is seeking answers on whether or not the City should shoulder more of the financial risk in order to encourage development? Are there other alternatives that could be considered? Public improvements include, but are not limited to, streets, curb and gutter, storm drainage, water, sewer, power, irrigation, and landscaping. We have learned that since the most recent economic downturn cash and credit available to fund new development has been tight, requiring some developers to undertake projects in

multiple filings where the usual economies of scale are lost. How other municipalities across the state are dealing with this will be explored.

Board or Committee Recommendation:

These potential text amendments have not been previously discussed.

Financial Impact/Budget:

Any financial or budget impacts will be considered with any future text amendment.

Legal issues:

Legal issues or impacts will be considered with any future text amendment.

Other issues:

Other issues will be explored with each proposed text amendment.

Previously presented or discussed:

These potential text amendments have not been previously presented or discussed.

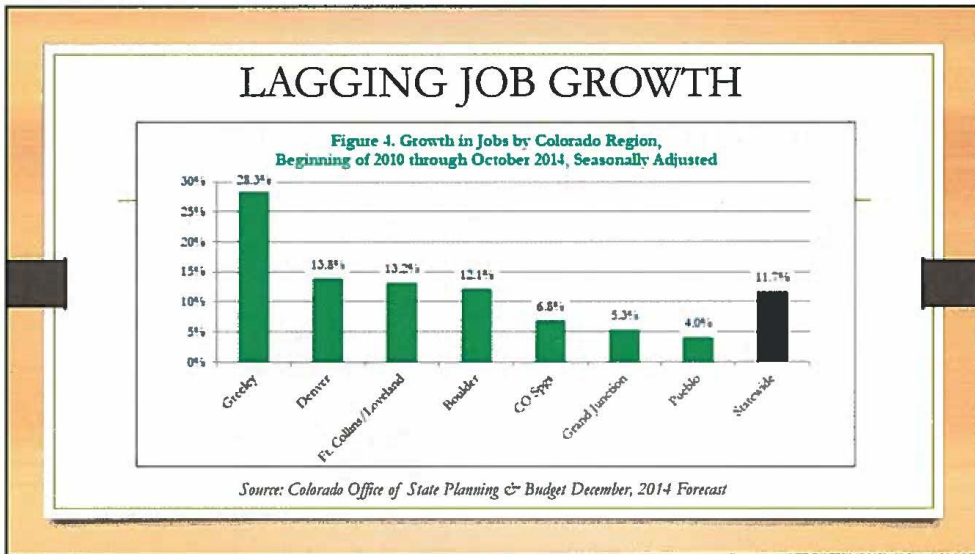
Attachments:

None

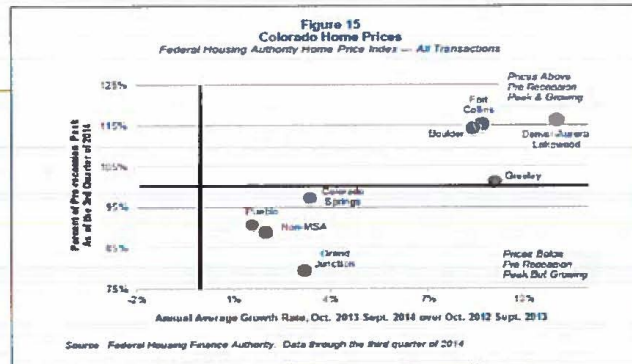
TAX FREE COLORADO

An economic development tool for economically distressed areas of Colorado

Grand Junction City Council -- March 16, 2015



TWO COLORADOS



Colorado Legislative Council Economic Forecast: December, 2014

What is TAX FREE COLORADO?

- A proposal to spur employment, economic development and new business in economically distressed areas
- Provides a tax-free environment for qualifying businesses for 10 years if the local government opts in:
 - Sales Tax
 - Property Tax
 - Business Taxes
 - Corporate Taxes
 - Franchise Fees
 - Income Tax for Employees



Qualifying Businesses

- **Must Bring in Net New Jobs**
- **NEW =**
 - New to the state
 - Not transferred from employment from another business in the state
 - Must have a full-time wage paying job requiring at least 35 hours per week
 - Is filled more than 6 months

Qualifying Companies

- **Targeted Companies**
 - Advanced materials
 - Manufacturing
 - Biotech and life sciences
 - High Tech Companies
- **Excluded Companies**
 - Retail
 - Wholesale Businesses
 - Restaurants
 - Accounting Firms
 - Law Firms
 - Real Estate Management
 - Hospitality
 - Retail Banking
 - Utilities



Higher Education Connection

- Qualifying businesses must have a nexus to the mission of the university, college and/or community college in their region.
- The University and/or college will establish program participation policies for interested businesses.
- Ties to the university and/or college mission allows for new jobs AND:
 - Development of new knowledge & discovery
 - Creation of new research funding
 - Enhancement of experiential learning opportunities for students
 - Promotes workforce training



Economically Distressed Areas Defined

- **Must meet 3 of 4 criteria**
 - Per capita income is below the state average
 - Growth of the local GDP is below the state average over the preceding 5-year period
 - Unemployment is above the state average for over 3 years
 - A net loss of workforce measured over three years.



Oversight



- The Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT) will manage and publish the program's rules and regulations.
- OEDIT will establish rules regarding:
 - Conflict of Interest
 - Designation of Employee
 - Areas in Need of Economic Stimulus
- The Economic Development Commission will determine "close calls" on new jobs.

Working Example...

- (Local) Colorado Economic Development Organization X goes to a potential medical equipment manufacturer in Bakersfield, CA to recruit them to Colorado.
- California's business tax environment is not good, so X company decides to relocate to Grand Junction, CO because **Mesa County has opted into the Tax Free Colorado program & Grand Junction has met the criteria for being economically distressed.**
- X Company contacts Colorado Mesa University to apply for the Tax Free Colorado Program

Example Continued...

- Colorado Mesa University sends a plan to the state that says that X company will be relocating in Grand Junction and will be working with their Mechanical Engineering Program, Nursing Program and Business Programs on workforce development, research, internships, etc.
- X Company has fulfilled the requirements for “Net New Jobs”
- X Company is approved by OEDIT to operate in Grand Junction, CO free of taxes, including income taxes for its employees

What Can You Do?

- Join our coalition of advocates and support Tax-Free Colorado
- Write a letter of support and send to Governor Hickenlooper:
John W Hickenlooper, Governor
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792
- Email and call your legislators and ask them support the legislation
- Send copies of letters and emails to TaxFreeColorado@gmail.com so we can add your logo and name to our Advocates List

Once Enacted...

All local jurisdictions within Mesa County must
opt in for the program to be a usable tool.

Success is in your hands!

Modifications to Economic Gardening Pilot Project**HB 15-1002****Sponsors:** Lee

This bill modifies the Economic Gardening Pilot Project and extends its termination date to June 30, 2018. The bill repeals statutory deadlines and time limits and allows each company to negotiate terms of engagement with the Office of Economic Development and International Trade. A participating company is allowed to use between 40 and 100 hours of pilot project services before renegotiating its terms of engagement. The bill increases the one-time participation fee from \$750 to \$1,500 and appropriates \$200,000 for the additional fiscal years of 16-17 and 17-18.

**EDCC- SUPPORT****Status:** 03/05/2015 House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor Refer Amended to Appropriations

Life Insurance Principle-Based Reserve Requirement**HB 15-1048****Sponsors:** Williams; Nordberg

Reserve requirements for life insurance companies are currently based on regulatory requirements put into effect in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The bill authorizes the commissioner of insurance to adopt more modern, principle-based reserving requirements for life insurance companies. The bill grants the commissioner of insurance authority to adopt a valuation manual and standard ordinary mortality table adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for use in determining the minimum non-forfeiture standard for life insurance policies.

Status: 03/13/2015 Senate Committee on Appropriations Refer Unamended - Consent Calendar to Senate Committee of the Whole

Regulatory Reform Act of 2015**HB 15-1065****Sponsors:** Szabo; Neville

This bill requires state agencies to issue a written warning and engage in educational outreach when businesses 100 or fewer employees commit minor violations of new rules.

Chamber, EDCC- SUPPORT**Status:** 01/09/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs + Appropriations

Cottage Food Act Expansion**HB 15-1102****Sponsors:** Hamner; Donovan

The "Colorado Cottage Foods Act" exempts sellers of certain foods from state inspection standards. The bill expands the permitted foods to include fruit empanadas, tortillas, and pickled vegetables that have an equilibrium pH value of 4.6 or lower. In addition to the disclaimer required on the products sold, a producer must also display a placard, sign, or card at the point of sale indicating that the product was produced in a home kitchen that is not subject to state licensure or inspection. The bill deletes language limiting a "producer" to natural persons. The Colorado Cottage Foods Act allows producers of non-potentially hazardous foods to use their home, commercial, or public kitchens to produce foods to sell directly to the ultimate consumers without a retail food license.

**Status:** 03/10/2015 House Committee on Public Health Care & Human Services Refer to Appropriations

Working Group for Economic Development in Distressed Regions**HB 15-1157****Sponsors:** Willett and Pabon; Heath and Merrifield

This bill creates the Economic Development Working Group for highly distressed rural and urban regions of the state. The bill requires the group to establish regions; discuss and evaluate economic development efforts in the region and their best practices; discuss and evaluation the possibility of creating tax-free zones or other economic development tools for their regions; and make detailed legislative recommendations to the general assembly in order to quickly improve the economic vitality of those regions. The group consists of 4 members of the general assembly, the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development and International trade and four non-voting members appointed by the legislative members.

**Chamber, CML, AGNC- SUPPORT****Status:** 03/13/2015 House Committee on Appropriations Refer Amended to House Committee of the Whole

Rural Economic Development Initiative Grant Program**HB 15-1177****Sponsors:** Willett and Becker; Donovan

This bill creates the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Grant Program for the purpose of creating resiliency in and growing the economies of highly distressed rural counties and appropriates \$3 million from the general fund. Counties with populations of less than 175,000 are considered distressed if they meet two of the following three criteria: annual percent change in employment less than the statewide change; annual percent change in assessed value of all property less than the statewide change; county-wide percentage of pupils eligible for free lunch higher than the state's average.



The bill allows 30 distressed rural counties to be classified as Highly Distressed rural counties based upon population, employment, weekly wage and the number of businesses. **Mesa County would qualify as distressed under this bill and would therefore be eligible for REDI Grants.** The REDI program would provide grants for projects that attract new jobs or encourage private capital investment in any of the highly distressed rural counties. Applications are approved based upon ability to create diversity and resiliency in the economy; create new jobs, benefits a key industry in the region by encouraging capital investment; increases average wages; encourages growth that benefits more than one community; shows compatibility with relevant communities and economic development plans; or evidences strong support from local governments. Grants may be awarded to local government for infrastructure or facility investments that are needed to attract new jobs or will encourage private investment; local governments for training grants for affected workers; private employers to support business expansion projects; private employers for employee training programs.

Chamber, City of Grand Junction, CML, AGNC- SUPPORT**Status:** 02/17/2015 House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor Refer Amended to Appropriations

Retail Food Establishment Fees**HB 15-1226****Sponsors:** Lee and Foote; Heath

Under current law, the annual license fees for retail food establishments are set in statute. This bill removes the fees from statute and requires the State Board of Health (board) in the Department of Public Health and Environment (DPHE) to set the fees in rule. State and local public health agency food safety programs are funded by license fees for retail food establishments. Forty-three dollars of each fee collected is applied to the Food Protection Cash Fund in the DPHE; the remainder of the fee is retained by the county or district public health agency where the retail food establishment is located. When shortages in funding occur, counties make up the deficit with general funds. The General Assembly last increased fees in 2009.

Status: 02/17/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Public Health Care & Human Services + Finance

Crowdfunding Interstate Securities On-Line**HB 15-1246****Sponsors:** Lee, Rankin, Willett; Scheffel, Hill

Current securities law restricts businesses' ability to raise capital through crowdfunding, which is the raising of money on-line through small contributions from a large number of investors. The bill enacts the "Colorado Crowdfunding Act" to facilitate crowdfunding by authorizing on-line intermediaries to match a Colorado investor with a Colorado business that wishes to sell securities.



The specified requirements include:

- the issuer must obtain documentation from a purchaser verifying Colorado residency;
- the sum of investments received by an issuer must not exceed \$1 million during a 12-month period; \$2 million if the issuer submits audited financial statements to the Securities Commissioner;
- non-accredited investors are limited to \$5,000 in investments in a 12-month period;
- the issuer must make filings and provide fees and documentation to the Securities Commissioner;
- the issuer must inform all prospective purchasers of the risks involved in the investment;
- purchasers must certify their understanding of the risks; and
- the issuer must comply with rules promulgated by the Securities Commissioner.

Status: 03/16/2015 House Second Reading Passed - No Amendments

Regulatory Reform Act of 2015**SB 15-180****Sponsors:** Neville; Neville

This bill would require a state agency to first issue a written warning for a first-time minor violation and perform outreach that informs the offending business how to comply with the new rule. Minor violations are defined as minor infractions of new administrative rules (in place less than one year) that are committed by businesses with less than 150 employees.

Status: 03/16/2015 Senate Second Reading Passed - No Amendments

Yoga Teacher Training
Sponsors: Woods; Dore

SB 15-186

The bill exempts yoga teacher training courses, program, and schools from the provisions of the Private Occupational Education Act of 1981. Statewide, only 16 Yoga Teacher Training Schools are licensed out of 80 known locations. The initial fee for a license application is \$2,000 and site and curriculum inspection is required for ongoing maintenance of license. State law provides several exemptions from DPOS oversight, including an exemption for schools offering education that is vocational. DPOS' regulations define vocational education as "any education to facilitate the personal development of individual persons which is distinguishable from one's recognized occupation and is not conducted as part of a program or course designed with the primary objective to prepare individuals for gainful employment in a recognized occupation."

Status: 03/11/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Education + Appropriations

The Statewide Initiative Process**HB 15-1057****Sponsors:** Court, DelGrosso, Rankin; Sonnenberg, Hodge

This bill requires the Legislative Council of the General Assembly to prepare an initial fiscal impact statement for each initiative submitted to the title board. The abstract must be printed at the beginning of each page of an initiative petition section that is circulated for signatures. The impact statement will also be included in the Blue Book.

Chamber, CML, EDCC- SUPPORT**Status:** 01/07/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Overseas Citizens Municipal Election Voting Access**HB 15-1130****Sponsors:** Nordberg; Garcia

The bill extends certain deadlines that govern the conduct of municipal elections to ensure that such military personnel and civilians have similar ability to vote in municipal elections as they do in federal, state, and county elections.

CML, AGNC- SUPPORT**Status:** 03/11/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Prepaid Postage for Mail Ballots**HB 15-1237****Sponsors:** Ryden

This bill requires all return envelopes sent to electors for any mail ballot election in the state to be postage prepaid. The Secretary of State will reimburse the local election officials for the costs of providing prepaid postage.

AGNC OPPOSE**Status:** 02/19/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs + Appropriations

Preventing Multiple Voter Registrations**SB 15-060****Sponsors:** Holbert, Everett

The bill allows the Secretary of State (SOS) to forward any information obtained from the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department of Revenue (DOR) to the appropriate county clerk for the purpose of updating an elector's voter registration.

Status: 01/28/2015 Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Refer to Senate Committee of the Whole

Disclosure Requirements for Small Issue Committees**SB 15-061****Sponsors:** Holbert

The bill specifies that campaign finance disclosure and reporting requirements do not apply to issue committees until an issue committee has raised or spent in excess of \$5,000. Currently, the Fair Campaign Practices Act in the state constitution imposes a \$200 threshold for issue committees; however, recent court rulings have found that this limit violates an issue committee's freedom of speech and association.

Status: 01/28/2015 Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Refer to Committee of the Whole

Invasive Phreatophyte Grant Program
Sponsors: Coram; Sonnenberg

HB 15-1006

HB 14-1006 creates an Invasive Phreatophyte Management Grant Program. The program is to be funded with annual transfers of \$5 million for 5 years beginning in the next fiscal year. The grant program will fund projects that manage and remove invasive phreatophytes, including Russian-olive, within riparian areas of the state (river fronts and flood plains). Grants are to be made available to public entities, private entities and private individuals that can demonstrate best practices for management of invasive phreatophytes to decrease water consumption. The bill is a Water Resource Review Committee sponsored bill and has bipartisan support.

Chamber; AGNC- SUPPORT

Status: 02/02/2015 House Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources Refer to Appropriations

Implement Federal Radioactive Materials Audit
Sponsors: Rankin, Coram; Hodge

HB 15-1145

Last year, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) audited Colorado's radiation regulatory program. The audit report listed numerous amendments to Colorado's radiation control statute that are necessary to maintain the delegated authority. The bill implements the requirements and recommendations of the audit report and updates the radiation control statutes.

Status: 03/03/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Health & Human Services

General Assembly to Review Environmental Rules Required by Federal Law
Sponsors: Dore, Rankin

HB 15-1210

This bill would require Colorado legislative approval of new and amended rules and regulations proposed or adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Clean Air Act, Water Pollution Control Act, Solid Waste Disposal Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Status: 02/03/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Expand Scope of Shared Photovoltaic Facilities
Sponsors: Winter and Roupe; Grantham and Hodge

HB 15-1284

NEW

Existing statutes requires Community Solar Garden subscribers to live in the same county unless the subscriber lives in a county with less than 20,000, in which case the subscriber may live in an adjacent county. This bill removes the population standards (resulting in subscribers being able to purchase into facilities either in their county of residence or a neighboring county). The bill also increases the minimum number of subscribers from 10 to 25 for installations larger than 500 kilowatts.

Status: 03/13/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Transportation & Energy

Expand Scope of Shared Photovoltaic Facilities
Sponsors: Winter and Roupe; Grantham and Hodge

HB 15-1284



Existing statutes requires Community Solar Garden subscribers to live in the same county unless the subscriber lives in a county with less than 20,000, in which case the subscriber may live in an adjacent county. This bill removes the population standards (resulting in subscribers being able to purchase into facilities either in their county of residence or a neighboring county). The bill also increases the minimum number of subscribers from 10 to 25 for installations larger than 500 kilowatts.

Status: 03/13/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Transportation & Energy

Renewable Energy Standards for Distributed Generation
Sponsors: Grantham

SB 15-046

The bill allows utility companies to count each kilowatt-hour of electricity obtained through retail distributed generation as 3 kilowatt-hours for purposes of meeting the 2020 standard. In addition, the bill allows cooperative electric associations to use purchases from community solar gardens to meet the retail distributed generation component of the renewable energy standard.

Status: 03/11/2015 Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

Dispose of Cathode Ray Tubes at Hazardous Waste Sites
Sponsors: Grantham

SB 15-076

Current law generally prohibits the land disposal of electronic devices, including those that contain cathode ray tubes. The bill allows the disposal of cathode ray tubes, including electronic devices that contain them, at hazardous waste disposal sites.

Status: 01/14/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

Compensate Owners of Mineral Interests for Extraction Regulations
Sponsors: Sonnenberg

SB 15-093

This bill states that when a local government adopts or implements an ordinance, resolution, rule, regulation, or other form of official policy concerning mineral extraction operations that has the effect of reducing the fair market value of the owner's mineral interest by at least 60%, the owner's interest is deemed to have been taken for a public use and allows owner to obtain compensation from the local government for the full diminution in the fair market value of the owner's interest caused by the regulatory impairment of the local government.

CML-OPPOSE

Status: 02/27/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Employment Services for Veterans Pilot Program**HB 15-1030****Sponsors:** Landgraf

This bill creates the Employment Services for Veterans Pilot Program (program) in the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE). The program includes veterans services related to job retention, mediation with employers, mentoring, and career counseling. The program is available for up to 20 veterans who have not been dishonorably discharged.

Status: 01/26/2015 House Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Refer to Appropriations

Continue Colorado Pay Equity Commission**HB 15-1133****Sponsors:** Danielson

House Bill 10-1417 created the Pay Equity Commission, set to repeal on July 1, 2015. This bill continues the 11-member Pay Equity Commission in the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE). Under the bill, the commission is:

- authorized to solicit gifts, grants, or donations directly;
- allowed to employ or contract up to 1.0 FTE employee or contractor for purposes of performing its duties if it receives sufficient funds through gifts, grants or donations; and
- required to monitor the status of pay inequity in Colorado and provide updates in its annual reports.

Status: 03/10/2015 House Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

Employee Leave to Attend Child's Academic Activities**HB 15-1221****Sponsors:** Buckner, Kerr

The Parental Involvement Act (HB 09-1057) requires that employers with 50 or more employees provide up to 6 hours in any one month and 18 hours in any academic year for a parent to attend school activities. This bill expands the definition of academic activity to include meetings with school counselors and academic achievement ceremony; extends the benefit to parents of pre-school aged children; and removes the existing repeal date of September 1, 2015.

Status: 03/09/2015 House Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

Innovative Industry Workforce Development Program**HB 15-1230****Sponsors:** Lee and Foote; Heath

This bill creates the Innovative Industries Workforce Development Program within the Department of Labor and Employment to reimburse businesses for ½ of its expenses related to qualifying internships. In order to qualify, the internship must be in an innovative industry; lasts for at least 130 hours and lasts up to 6 months; allow students to gain valuable work experience in at least 2 specified occupational areas; pay the intern at least \$10 per hour; provide a mentor or supervisor that will work closely with the intern; not be for the purpose of meeting required residency or clinical hours for the intern; be with an innovative-industry business that has a physical operation facility in the state; be for a high school or college student, a resident who is a student at an out-of-state college, or a recent graduate of either; and along with all other internships, constitute less than 50% of the business's workforce located in the state. A business may be reimbursed for up to 5 interns per location and up to 10 at all locations, but the maximum amount that a business may be reimbursed for each internship is \$5,000.



Status: 02/17/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs and Labor

Enhanced Unemployment Compensation Benefits
Sponsors: Esgar and Kraft-Tharp

HB 15-1231

The bill reenacts the implementation of enhanced unemployment insurance compensation benefits for eligible unemployment insurance claimants that expired in 2014. Enhanced unemployment insurance compensation benefits are available to claimants who are enrolled and making satisfactory progress in an approved training program that will train them for a high-demand occupation, a more stable occupation, or a long-term occupation. Up to \$4 million may be expended for the program, including benefit payments, in any fiscal year, with no more than \$12 million in expenditures obligated by the division over the three fiscal years affected by the bill. The state General Fund pays for program costs.

Status: 02/19/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs and Labor + Appropriations

Colorado Retirement Security Task Force
Sponsors: Buckner and Pettersen; Steadman and Todd

HB 15-1235

The bill creates the Colorado Retirement Security Task Force to study, assess, and report on the factors that affect Coloradans' ability to save for a financially secure retirement and on the feasibility of creating a retirement savings plan for private sector employees. The task force is required to submit 2 reports to the general assembly regarding the factors that affect Coloradans' ability to save for a financially secure retirement and on the feasibility of creating a retirement savings plan for private sector employees.

Status: 02/19/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs and Labor

FAMLI Insurance Program Wage Replacement
Sponsors: Winter and Salazar; Ulibarri

HB 15-1258

NEW

This bill creates the Family and Medical Leave Insurance program to provide partial wage-replacement benefits to an eligible individual who takes leave from work to care for a new child or a family member with a serious health condition or who is unable to work due to the individual's own serious health condition. Prior to implementing the program, the Department of Labor and Employment must conduct an actuarial analysis to determine the appropriate level of premiums and solvency surcharges, if necessary, to ensure the soundness of the program. Each employee in the state will pay a premium determined by the Director of the Division by rule, which premium is based on a percentage of the employee's yearly wages. The premiums are deposited into the family and medical leave insurance fund from which family and medical leave benefits are paid to eligible individuals. The director may also impose a solvency surcharge by rule if determined necessary to ensure the soundness of the fund.

Status: 03/04/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Health, Insurance, & Environment + Finance

Pathways into Technology
Sponsors: Duran; Todd

HB 15-1270

NEW

This bill authorizes the operation of Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (P-Tech schools). These schools enroll students in grades 9 through 14 in programs that focus on science, technology and mathematics. The schools combine high school and college-level course work with workplace educational experiences. Upon graduation, students will have a high school diploma and an associate's degree in applied sciences.

ED

Status: 03/06/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Education

Mobile Learning Labs Workforce Development
Sponsors: Lontine and Hamner; Marble and Donovan

HB 15-1271

NEW

The bill allows moneys in the Colorado Existing Industry Training Program to be used to fund mobile learning labs, which provide employers with a flexible delivery option for on-site training.

ED

Status: 03/06/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Finance

Creation of Career Pathways for Students
Sponsors: Garnett; Kerr

HB 15-1274

NEW

Following the model developed for creating the Manufacturing Career Pathway, the bill directs the state Workforce Development Council to coordinate multiple agencies and industries in the design of industry-driven career pathways for critical occupations in growing industries.

ED

Status: 03/06/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs and Labor

Career and Tech Ed in Concurrent Enrollment
Sponsors: Winter; Heath and Marble

HB 15-1275

NEW

This bill clarifies that apprenticeships and internships are suitable course work for concurrent enrollment options of local education providers. In addition, the bill directs the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board to create recommendations to assist local education providers in creating cooperative agreements to include apprenticeship programs and internship programs in the available concurrent enrollment programs.

ED

Status: 03/06/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs and Labor

Skilled Worker Training Grant Program
Sponsors: Pabon, Williams; Cooke and Heath

HB 15-1276

NEW

ED

The bill creates the "Skilled Worker Outreach, Recruitment, and Key Training Act", also referred to as the "WORK Act," which establishes a grant program in the Department of Labor and Employment to award matching grants to entities and organizations that offer skilled worker training programs to assist in their outreach, recruiting, and training efforts. The program is to fund applicants that demonstrate partnerships with industry and have the best potential to reach broad audiences, significantly increase enrollment in and completion of their training programs and fill existing market needs for skilled workers. The bill appropriates \$10 million over three years.

Status: 03/09/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs and Labor + Appropriations

Repeal Job Protection Civil Rights Enforcement Act

SB 15-069

Sponsors: Woods; Szabo, Thurlow, Willett

In 2013, the general assembly enacted HB13-1136, the "Job Protection and Civil Rights Enforcement Act of 2013" (act), which established compensatory and punitive damage remedies, as well as front pay, for a person who proves that an employer engaged in a discriminatory or unfair employment practice under state law. With the exception of the expansion of age-based discrimination claims to individuals who are 70 years of age or older, the bill repeals all components of the act and restores the equitable relief remedies that were available to employment discrimination victims making claims under state law prior to the passage of the act.

Chamber- SUPPORT

Status: 03/13/2015 Senate Committee on Appropriations Refer Amended to Senate Committee of the Whole

Electronic Wage Payment

SB 15-101

Sponsors: Balmer; Pabon

The bill allows employers, at their discretion, to pay wages by electronic credit transfer to an employee's account in a financial institution or to deposit wages on a paycard if the following conditions apply. The employee has the option of electronic credit transfer to a financial institution account in lieu of credit to a paycard. The employee has 7 days after receiving notice of the option to designate an account for electronic credit transfer. The employer provides the employee with a written or electronic explanation of any fees associated with both electronic credit transfer and paycard. The employer provides the employee with one withdrawal either by check, automated teller machine withdrawal, or electronic transfer per pay period with no fees. The employer offers a program to the employee that does not charge a monthly maintenance fee to use the prepaid paycard. The employer allows the employee to always have the option to be paid by electronic credit transfer in lieu of credit to a paycard.

Status: 02/27/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Classification of Independent Contractors

SB 15-107

Sponsors: Heath

Pursuant to the "Colorado Employment Security Act", service performed by an individual for another is deemed to be employment unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Division of Labor that the individual is free from control and direction in the performance of the service. The bill removes the requirement that freedom from control and direction must be shown "to the satisfaction of the division".

Status: 01/23/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Business, Labor, & Technology

Alcohol Beverage License Reissuance
Sponsors: Singer

HB 15-1202

Under current law, any liquor licensee whose license has expired for more than 90 days must apply for a new license and the licensee cannot sell alcohol until the new license is issued. This bill allows the local and/or state liquor licensing authority to reissue a liquor license after it has been expired more than 90 days but less than 180 days.

Status: 03/11/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Business, Labor, & Technology

Distillery Pub Alcohol Beverage License
Sponsors: Pabon; Kerr

HB 15-1204

This bill creates the distillery pub license, which is a new alcohol license that will allow a spirituous liquor producer to operate a pub that serves alcoholic beverages, including spirituous liquors that the producer ferments and distills, for consumption on the licensed premises.

CML- SUPPORT

Status: 03/11/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Business, Labor, & Technology

Local Government Input Liquor Sales Room Applications
Sponsors: Singer

HB 15-1217

This bill gives a local alcohol licensing authority (local authority) the ability to provide input to the Liquor Enforcement Division (division) in the Department of Revenue (DOR) concerning the establishment of sales rooms for licensed wineries, limited wineries, distilleries, and malt liquor wholesalers (licensees) in the local authority's jurisdiction. Under current law, only distilleries must seek input from the local licensing authority where they operate in order to open a sales room.

CML- SUPPORT

Status: 03/12/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Business, Labor, & Technology

Concerning Liability of Individual Members of BOCCs
Sponsors: Vigil

HB 15-1074

The bill prohibits a judgment against a board of county commissioners arising solely from an act of the board from being enforced against an individual member of the board.

AGNC- SUPPORT

Status: 02/26/2015 House Considered Senate Amendments - Result was to Laid Over Daily

Indemnity in Public Construction Contracts
Sponsors: Tate; Jahn

HB 15-1197

Currently, public entities in construction-related contracts are prohibited from being indemnified for the public entity's own negligence. The bill clarifies this provision by specifying that:

- It also applies to a design contract and to an obligation to pay for the defense of the public entity;
- The contractor's obligation is limited to the amount of negligence attributable to the contractor and its agents, representatives, subcontractors, and suppliers; and
- The obligation only arises when the amount of its liability for the losses of the third party are adjudicated.

CML- OPPOSE

Status: 03/12/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Judiciary

Coordination in Federal Land Management Response
Sponsors: Rankin; Roberts

HB 15-1225

The bill authorizes the use of the Local Government Mineral Impact Fund for planning, analysis, public engagement, collaboration with federal land managers, and other local government activity related to federal land management. For five years, grant funding of \$1 million per year will be available to counties for these activities or for similar or related activities by local governments. This bill requires certain officers and agencies of the executive branch in Colorado to provide technical and financial support to local governments that are affected by federal land management.

Status: 03/12/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Local Government

Homeless Persons Bill of Rights
Sponsors: Salazar and Melton; Keflas

HB 15-1264



The bill creates the "Colorado Right to Rest Act", which establishes basic rights for persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the right to use and move freely in public spaces without discrimination, to rest in public spaces without discrimination, to eat or accept food in any public space where food is not prohibited, to occupy a legally parked vehicle, and to have a reasonable expectation of privacy of one's property. A person whose rights have been violated may seek enforcement in a civil action, and a court may award relief and damages as appropriate.

CML- OPPOSE

Status: 03/04/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Shifting Fiscal Responsibility of County Courts to State**SB 15-089**

Sponsors: Garcia; Vigil

Currently, the board of county commissioners in each county is fiscally responsible for providing and maintaining adequate courtrooms and other court facilities in their counties. The bill shifts that fiscal responsibility to the state over time by requiring the state to pay a specified amount of rent to each county based on the fair market value of the courtrooms and other facilities used by the judicial department in that county.

AGNC- SUPPORT**Status:** 02/09/2015 Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Refer U to Appropriations

Modifications to Urban Renewal**SB 15-135**

Sponsors: Martinez Humenik and Jahn, Hodge, Holbert, Todd

This bill increases the maximum number of Urban Renewal Commissioners on an Urban Renewal Authority from 11 to 13 and specifies that one County Commissioner may be appointed to the Authority. The bill also requires all funds remaining from TIF not otherwise used for the project to be refunded to the tax bodies based upon percentage contribution.

CML- SUPPORT**Status:** 02/27/2015 Senate Second Reading Laid Over Daily

Interstate Compact EMS Providers**HB 15-1015**

Sponsors: Winter

The bill authorizes the Governor to enter into an interstate compact with other states or jurisdictions to recognize and allow emergency medical services (EMS) providers licensed in a compact member state to provide EMS in Colorado. EMS providers include emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, and paramedics.

Status: 03/11/2015 Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Refer Unamended to Appropriations

Driver May Challenge Initial Police Contact**HB 15-1073**

Sponsors: Salazar

A provision of current law allows a driver to challenge the validity of a law enforcement officer's initial contact with the driver and the driver's subsequent arrest for a DUI offense. The bill states that this provision applies retroactively to administrative hearings performed before the provision's enactment.

Status: 03/12/2015 House Committee on Judiciary Refer Amended to House Committee of the Whole

Red Light Camera**HB 15-1098**

Sponsors: Humphrey, Thurlow; Neville

This bill prohibits the use of an automated vehicle identification system, including photo radar and red light cameras, by state and local governments for the purposes of enforcing traffic laws or issuing citations for the violation of traffic laws. Governmental entities may still use automated vehicle identification systems to assess tolls and civil penalties and to issue violations related to high occupancy vehicle lanes.

CML-OPPOSE

Status: 02/25/2015 House Committee on Transportation & Energy Refer Amended to Appropriations

Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles**HB 15-1115**

Sponsors: Lawrence

This bill expands the definition of first degree criminal trespass to include the intentional use of an unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) to observe, record, transmit, or capture images of another person when that person has a reasonable expectation of privacy. The definition of harassment is also expanded to include using a drone to track a person's movements with the intent to harass, annoy, or alarm that person.

Status: 02/25/2015 House Committee on Transportation & Energy Refer Amended to Appropriations

Disaster Prediction**HB 15-1129**

Sponsors: Kraft-Tharp; Roberts

The bill requires the Division of Fire Prevention and Control to establish, support, customize, and maintain a Colorado Wildland Fire Prediction and Decision Support System. The bill also requires the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to establish, support, customize, and maintain a Colorado flood prediction and decision support system.

Status: 02/09/2015 House Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources Refer Unamended to Appropriations

Retaliation against a Prosecutor**HB 15-1229**

Sponsors: McCann; Martinez Humenik

This bill creates a new crime of retaliation against a prosecutor for an individual who makes a credible threat or commits an act of harassment or an act of harm or injury upon a person or property when the threat or act is retaliation or retribution for a prosecutor's role in the prosecution of any individual or a prosecutor's performance of any duty within the scope of the prosecutor's employment.

CML- SUPPORT**Status:** 02/09/2015 House Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources Refer Unamended to Appropriations

Reduce Student Contacts with Law Enforcement**HB 15-1240**

Sponsors: Fields; Balmer

This bill encourages school districts to negotiate and enter into a memorandum of understanding with each municipal law enforcement agency, and each sheriff's department with jurisdiction over at least one school of the school district, to establish procedures to minimize unnecessary student contact with law enforcement agencies and courts as disciplinary responses to school incidents.

Status: 03/13/2015 House Second Reading Passed with Amendments - Committee

Use of Medical Marijuana during Probation**HB 15-1267**

Sponsors: Salazar; Guzman

This bill allows people on probation to use medical marijuana, unless the person is convicted of an offense related to medical marijuana.

NEW**Status:** 03/13/2015 House Second Reading Passed with Amendments - Committee

Wildfire Risk Reduction Grand Program**SB 15-022**

Sponsors: Roberts

Senate Bill 13-169 created the Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program funded through the Wildfire Risk Reduction Cash Fund which included an initial \$9,800,000 in funding. A portion of the grants are available for capacity-building efforts to provide local governments, community groups, and collaborative forestry groups with the resources necessary to provide site-based hazardous fuel reduction treatments. This bill transfers an additional \$9.8 million and expands the definitions of hazardous fuels.

CML- SUPPORT**Status:** 01/15/2015 Senate Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy Refer to Appropriations

Eyewitness Identifications Policies and Procedures**SB 15-058**

Sponsors: Guzman; Kagan

The bill requires all Colorado law enforcement agencies to adopt, on or before July 1, 2016, written policies and procedures (policies) relating to eyewitness identifications. The policies must include protocols related to the use of photo arrays, live lineups, and show up identification procedures; instructions for an eyewitness that clearly state that the perpetrator might not be in the lineup; instructions regarding the use of live or photo fillers in a lineup or array; instructions for eyewitnesses that advise the eyewitness that the perpetrator may or may not be in the photo array or live lineup and that the investigation will continue whether or not the eyewitness identifies an alleged perpetrator; and instructions for obtaining a statement from the eyewitness concerning the eyewitness' confidence in his or her identification.

Status: 02/17/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Judiciary

Second Degree Assault for Injury to Emergency Responders**SB 15-067**

Sponsors: Cooke; Joshi

This bill raises the classification from assault in the third degree to assault in the second degree for the following criminal actions:

- Intentionally causing bodily injury (assault) to an emergency medical care provider in order to prevent that provider from performing a lawful duty; or
- Causing a peace officer, firefighter, emergency medical care or service provider, while engaged in his or her professional duties, to come into contact with bodily fluids with the intent to infect, injure, harm, harass, annoy, threaten or cause alarm.

CML- SUPPORT**Status:** 01/28/2015 Senate Committee on Judiciary Refer Unamended to Appropriations

Medical Tests for All Assault Victims**SB 15-126**

Sponsors: Cooke, Johnston; Foote

Under current law, testing for communicable diseases is required for persons charged with or convicted of assault in either the second or third degree when bodily fluids come into contact with a peace officer, firefighter, emergency medical care provider, or emergency medical service provider. This bill expands the requirement if the person's body fluids come into contact with the victim.

Status: 02/04/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Judiciary

Data Collections and Community Policing Best Practices**SB 15-185**

Sponsors: Cooke, Johnston; Foote

This bill requires local law enforcement agencies and the Department of Corrections to report specific data to the Division of Criminal Justice. Each agency must report the number of stops and arrests, including race, ethnicity, gender, and incident report number. After officer involved shootings, the agency is required to report demographic information on the officer and individual involved. The bill also requires the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to create an advisory committee to study community policing practices and report on best practices.

CML- OPPOSE**Status:** 02/04/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Judiciary

Veterans Fire Corps for Wildland Firefighting
Sponsors: Roberts and Garcia; Keyser and Hamner

SB 15-205

NEW

This bill requires local law enforcement agencies and the Department of Corrections to report specific data to the Division of Criminal Justice. Each agency must report the number of stops and arrests, including race, ethnicity, gender, and incident report number. After officer involved shootings, the agency is required to report demographic information on the officer and individual involved. The bill also requires the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to create an advisory committee to study community policing practices and report on best practices.

Status: 03/11/2015 Introduced in Senate- Assigned to Judiciary

Common Interest Exempt Small Limited Expense Community**HB 15-1095**

Sponsors: Carver

The bill allows a common interest community (commonly referred to as a homeowners' association, or HOA) created before the 1992 enactment of the Colorado Common Interest Ownership Act (CCIOA) to be exempt from certain provisions of CCIOA if the HOA's annual assessments do not exceed a statutory threshold of \$300. To qualify for the new exemption, the \$300 limit must be established in the HOA's recorded declaration or bylaws.

Status: 03/12/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Local Government

Public Trustee Conduct Electronic Foreclosure Sale**HB 15-1142**Sponsors: McCann, **Coram**; Guzman

The bill authorizes the public trustee of a county to conduct foreclosure sales through the internet or another electronic means, and allows for the collection of a specific fee for sales that are conducted electronically.

Status: 03/12/2015 House Committee on Finance Refer Amended to House Committee of the Whole

Home Service Contracts**HB 15-1223**

Sponsors: Williams; Balmer

The Colorado Consumer Protection Act (CCPA) authorizes a homeowner to seek legal relief in a dispute with home warranty service companies. The bill extends the regulation of home warranty service contracts currently in place for pre-owned homes to also include new homes. The bill defines "home warranty service contracts" and excludes from the definition public utility contracts and a builder's warranty against construction defects provided in connection with a new home sale. A builder's warranty against construction defects is also specifically excluded from the standards related to consumer goods service contracts.

Status: 03/12/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Business, Labor, & Technology

Reduce Statute Of Limitations Construction Defects**SB 15-091**Sponsors: **Scott**

The bill reduces from 8 years to 4 years the statute of repose for construction professionals in Colorado. The statute of repose is the maximum period for a legal action against any construction professional (architect, contractor, builder, builder vendor, engineer, or inspector) performing or furnishing the design, planning, supervision, inspection, construction, or observation of construction of any improvement to real property.

Status: 01/14/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Construction Defects Lawsuits**SB 15-177**

Sponsors: Scheffel; DelGrosso

This bill makes several changes to existing construction defect statutes. The bill would require a home owners association to submit to mediation prior to filing a construction defects claim. The bill also requires the association to give notice to all home or unit owners regarding the costs, duration and financial impact of filing a claim and receive written consent from a majority.

Chamber, **City of Grand Junction- SUPPORT****Status:** 02/10/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Business, Labor, & Technology

Allowing Counties to Implement Specified Taxes on Retail Marijuana
Sponsors: Singer

HB 15-1007

This bill, recommended by the Marijuana Revenues Interim Committee clarifies that counties and statutory cities have the authority to levy a voter approved special sales tax on retail marijuana and gives them authority to levy a voter approved excise tax. In 2013, voters passed Proposition AA, which allowed the state to levy a 10 percent sales tax and a 15 percent excise tax on retail marijuana. Home-rule cities also have the authority to levy voter approved taxes on retail and medical marijuana. Proposition AA was silent on the authority of counties and statutory cities to levy sales or excise taxes on retail marijuana.

Voters have approved taxes on marijuana in four counties:

- 3% sales tax on retail marijuana in Adams County;
- 3.5% tax on retail marijuana in Pueblo County;
- 5% excise tax on retail marijuana in Huerfano County; and
- 4% sales tax on medical marijuana and medical marijuana paraphernalia in Park County.

In addition, several statutory cities collect taxes on retail marijuana.

AGNC- SUPPORT

CML-OPPOSE

Status: 02/17/2015 House Second Reading Laid Over to 03/16/2015

Agricultural Land Destroyed by Natural Causes
Sponsors: Hamner, Roberts

HB 15-1008

This bill, allows agricultural land destroyed by a natural cause on or after January 1, 2012 to retain its agricultural classification for a rehabilitation period consisting of the year of destruction and the next four property tax years. During the rehabilitation period, the bill specifies that the owner must make progress toward restoring agricultural use or, in the case of forest land, must comply with an approved forest management plan. Undeveloped land that is not suitable for agricultural production is generally classified as vacant. Colorado's method for valuing agricultural land is based on agricultural production, whereas vacant land is valued based on the property as a whole and bears a relatively greater tax burden for a property otherwise similar to an agricultural parcel.

Status: 03/03/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Local Government

State Income Tax Deduction for Educator Expense
Sponsors: Navarro

HB 15-1104

This bill creates a Colorado educator expense deduction, which would allow educators to deduct unreimbursed education expenses from Colorado income beginning in tax year 2016 through tax year 2018. Each eligible educator would be allowed to deduct up to \$250 per taxpayer, per tax year 2016 through tax year 2018.

Status: 03/12/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Finance

Overseas Federal Civilian Employee Tax Filing
Sponsors: Rosenthal

HB 15-1126

State law allows an individual who is domiciled in Colorado to elect treatment as a nonresident individual for state income tax filing purposes if the individual is absent from the state for at least 305 days for active military service. The bill extends the treatment to civilian employees of the United States and accompanying spouse.

Status: 02/25/2015 House Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Refer Unamended to Finance

Residential Energy Efficient Tax Credit
Sponsors: **Coram**

HB 15-1132

The bill creates a residential energy reduction income tax credit for the income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2015, but prior to January 1, 2020, for any resident individual who makes qualified improvements to their home that result in improved energy efficiency, measured in millions of British thermal units (MMBTU). The Governor's Energy Office must certify the improvements and the homeowner must obtain a pre-improvement residential energy efficiency audit from a certified home energy rater. A post-improvement inspection must be conducted after improvements are made. The tax credit is equal to:

- \$1,000 for a residential energy reduction of 30 or more but less than 45 MMBTU;
- \$1,500 for a residential energy reduction of 45 or more but less than 60 MMBTU; or
- \$2,000 for a residential energy reduction of 60 or more MMBTU.

Status: 02/26/2015 House Committee on Finance Refer Amended to Appropriations

Sales and Use Tax Refund for Data Centers
Sponsors: DelGrosso; Holbert

HB 15-1158

Beginning January 1, 2016, the bill allows a sales and use tax refund to the owner, operator, or tenant of a facility that is a qualified data center or a qualified refurbished data center for the state sales or use tax paid on information technology equipment (IT equipment) that is used and maintained in the qualified data center or qualified refurbished data center for at least one year. The refund also applies to IT equipment that is purchased to replace or upgrade IT equipment and IT equipment that is relocated to the state. The refund must be claimed between January 1 and April 1 in the year following the year when the sales taxes were paid. The maximum refund is \$3 million per year, per taxpayer.



Chamber, EDCC- SUPPORT

Status: 02/26/2015 House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor Refer Amended to Finance

Instream Flow Incentive Tax Credit
Sponsors: Arndt, Donovan

HB 15-1159

In 2009, the general assembly enacted the instream flow incentive tax credit for water rights holders for 6 years. When enacted, the tax credit included a trigger that made the credit unavailable if total general fund revenues for a particular fiscal year would not be sufficient to grow the total state general fund appropriations by 6% over the previous fiscal year's appropriations. The bill extends the instream flow incentive tax credit for water rights holders for an additional 5 income tax years.

Status: 03/12/2015 House Committee on Finance Refer Amended to Appropriations

Sales and Use Tax Refund for Medical and Clean Technology
Sponsors: Kraft-Tharp; Heath

HB 15-1180



The bill recreates and reenacts, with amendments, a refund for state sales and use tax paid by a qualified medical technology or clean technology taxpayer (qualified taxpayer). A qualified taxpayer is a business entity that:

- Employs 35 or fewer full-time employees in Colorado;
- Is headquartered in Colorado or has more than 50% of its employees in Colorado; and
- Conducts research and development of medical technology or clean technology.

From 2015 through 2019, a qualified taxpayer may claim a refund for state sales and use tax paid on tangible personal property used in Colorado directly and predominately in research and development of medical technology or clean technology. The maximum annual refund is \$50,000.

EDCC- SUPPORT

Status: 02/26/2015 House Committee on Finance Refer Amended to Appropriations

Colorado is Honoring our Military Tax Exemption
Sponsors: Keyser; Crowder

HB 15-1181

The bill exempts all military income of a resident service person from Colorado state income tax for 5 tax years commencing with the 2016 income tax year.

Status: 02/25/2015 House Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Refer to Finance

Creation of a Tax Expenditure Evaluation Committee
Sponsors: Becker

HB 15-1205

This bill creates the Tax Expenditure Evaluation Committee (committee), a year-round joint committee of the General Assembly. The committee is responsible for reviewing evaluations of state tax expenditures to be prepared by the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) or its contractor, and for making recommendations or authoring legislation regarding improvements to the state's administration of tax expenditures.

EDCC- OPPOSE

Status: 03/11/2015 House Committee on Finance Refer Amended to Appropriations

Sales and Use Tax Refund for Recycling Equipment
Sponsors: Singer

HB 15-1206

This bill creates a refund for sales and use taxes paid on machinery and equipment used for recycling or reprocessing of waste products. The refund is available for sales and use taxes paid between January 1, 2015, and December 31, 2019. Taxpayers must claim the refund between January 1 and April 1 in the year following the year when the sales taxes were paid.



Status: 02/19/2015 House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor Refer Amended to Finance

EZ Investment Tax Credit for Renewable Energy
Sponsors: McCann and Becker; Hodge and Sonnenberg

HB 15-1219

Current law allows for an investment tax credit if a taxpayer makes a qualified investment in an enterprise zone. The tax credit can be carried forward by a taxpayer and it is not refundable. The credit is allowed to the extent of the first \$5,000 in tax liability plus 50% of the liability in excess of \$5,000. The bill allows a taxpayer who places a new renewable energy investment in service on or after January 1, 2015, that results in an investment tax credit to elect to receive a refund of 80% of the amount of the credit and forego the remaining 20% as a cost of the election. If 80% of the credit is \$750,000 or less, the taxpayer receives the full refund in the first year. If 80% of the credit is more than \$750,000, the taxpayer annually receives a refund not to exceed \$750,000 per income tax year until 80% of the credit is completely refunded to the taxpayer.



EDCC- SUPPORT

Status: 03/04/2015 House Committee on Transportation & Energy Refer Unamended to Finance

Tax Credits for Employers that Pay Student Loans
Sponsors: Becker; Heath

HB 15-1227

This bill creates an income tax credit for employers doing business in Colorado who hire and retain new employees for a 12-month period and make payments directly to a lender on behalf of each new employee for the new employee's student loan that he or she incurred while earning an approved degree. The bill requires the approved degree to be an associate or bachelor's degree that represents the completion of a course of study in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, or a vocational certificate related to industry, manufacturing, or information technology from a Colorado institution of higher education. Each employee must be a Colorado resident, work full-time and have a base salary or hourly wage of less than \$60,000 per year. The amount of credit is 50% of direct payments. The credit applies for years 2016 through 2020 and each employer's maximum annual credit is \$200,000. Credits must be pre-certified through the OEDIT.



Status: 03/11/2015 House Committee on Finance Refer Amended to Appropriations

Income Tax Deduction for Leasing Ag Asset
Sponsors: Mitch Bush

HB 15-1234

This bill creates an income tax deduction for taxpayers equal to 20% of the leave revenue received from an eligible farmer or rancher. The tax credit is authorized for years 2016-2014. Eligible farmers and ranchers are residents with less than \$1 million in net worth who provide the majority of the daily physical labor and management of agricultural asset.

Status: 03/09/2015 House Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources Refer Amended to Finance

Tax Credit for Improving Energy Efficiency
Sponsors: Winter

HB 15-1236

This bill creates income tax credits for existing multi-family home owners who make energy efficiency improvements to the multi-family home that result in at least 20% reduction in energy consumption; owners of new and renovated multi-family homes and commercial buildings that reach LEED certification; and owners affordable housing projects.

Status: 03/05/2015 House Committee on Transportation & Energy Refer Amended to Finance

Tax Credit Health Professional Shortage Areas
Sponsors: Buck, Cooke

HB 15-1238

The bill creates a state income tax credit for a physician volunteer, also known as a preceptor, who provides personal instruction, training, and supervision to a graduate medical student enrolled at a Colorado Higher Education institution. To qualify, the preceptorship must be undertaken in a health shortage area, as designated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The preceptor may earn \$1,000 for each preceptorship provided during the tax year. Preceptors with at least 10 percent of their patients receiving Medicaid may receive \$1,500 for each preceptorship. The credit is capped at \$5,000 per tax year and any unused credits may be carried forward for five income tax years.

Status: 03/12/2015 House Committee on Health, Insurance, & Environment Refer Amended to Finance

Tax Credits for Nonpublic Education
Sponsors: Lundberg

SB 15-045

This bill creates an income tax credit for individuals who enroll their dependent child in a home-based or private school offer a scholarship to a child who enrolls in a private school. In order to qualify, the child must have attended a public school full-time the year before enrolling in a private school and must have attended public school as of the enactment date of the bill and prior to enrolling in a home-based school. Taxpayers continue to qualify for the credit each year until their child graduates or returns to public school. For fulltime, home-based students, the credit is \$1,000; \$500 for half-time students. For parents enrolling their children in private school, the credit is ½ of the prior years' per pupil funding for full time-students; ¼ per pupil funding for half-time students.

Status: 03/13/2015 Senate Committee on Appropriations Refer Unamended to Senate Committee of the Whole

Tax Incentives for Agritourism-Related Activities
Sponsors Garcia; Dore

SB 15-127

This bill creates a state income tax credit for private advertising or marketing agencies that donate advertising or marketing services of a local government with fewer than 120,000 residents for the purpose of marketing or promoting an Agritourism activity. The agency may deduct 50% of the costs that were donated, up to \$10,000 in any year. The bill also creates an income tax credit for taxpayers who purchase equipment to be used for Agritourism purposes. The credit is equal to the purchase price of the equipment and capped at \$500 annually with a 5-year carry forward.



CML- Support

Status: 02/19/2015 Senate Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations

Income Tax Credit for Property Taxes Paid Eligibility
Sponsors Sheffel; **Thurlow**

SB 15-141

Last year, legislation passed that created an income tax credit to reimburse taxpayers for personal property taxes paid. In order to qualify, the person must have less than \$15,000 in personal property subject to business personal property tax. This bill increases the property cap from \$15,000 to \$25,000 for 2015 and grows the cap for the next 4 years by an amount equal to inflation.



CML, Chamber- SUPPORT

Status: 02/12/2015 Senate Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations

Implement Conservation Easement Audit Requirements
Sponsors Roberts and Hodge; Garnett and Keysey

SB 15-206

The state currently allows an income tax credit for a portion of the value of a conservation easement donated by a taxpayer. The amount of the credit is equal to 50% of the fair market value of the donated portion of the easement, with a cap of \$375,000 for each easement donated. Starting January 1, 2015, the bill increases the amount of the credit to 75% of the first \$100,000 of the fair market value of the easement, and 50% of the fair market value above that amount. The cap is increased to \$1.5 million.

Status: 03/11/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

Fund Safe Routes to School Program
Sponsors: Tyler; Todd

HB 15-1003

This bill directs the Colorado Department of Transportation to make at least \$3 million in state money available for Safe Routes to School grants for fiscal year 2015-2016. Safe Routes to School initiated as a federally funded program but funding has since decreased.

CML, AGNC, **City of Grand Junction**- SUPPORT

Status: 01/07/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Transportation & Energy

Additional SB 09-228 Transfers to HUTF and CCF
Sponsors: DelGrosso

HB 15-1109

This bill lengthens the five-year block of statutory transfers from the General Fund to the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) and the Capital Construction Fund (CCF), in the event that one or more year(s) of transfers are reduced or not made because of a revenue surplus under Article X, Section 20 of the state constitution, the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR). For each year in which transfers are reduced or not made, an additional year of transfers is required, in which 2 percent of General Fund revenue must be transferred to the HUTF and 1 percent of General Fund revenue must be transferred to the CCF. As in current law, transfers created in the bill may be reduced or not made because of the size of the TABOR surplus. The schedule of transfers is extended until five years of full transfers have taken place.

Status: 01/07/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Transportation & Energy

New Diesel Motor Vehicle Emissions Testing
Sponsors: DelGrosso

HB 15-1109

Senate Bill 09-228 requires a five-year block of transfers from the General Fund to the HUTF and the CCF beginning after state personal income grows 5.0 percent or more during a single calendar year. Current estimates in state personal income growth indicate that the transfers will begin in FY 2015-16 and continue through FY 2019-20. Under current state statute, these transfers are decreased in the event of a TABOR refund. This bill would extend the transfers until 5 full years (may not be consecutive) of transfers have taken place.

Status: 01/07/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Transportation & Energy

Winter Driving I-70 Tread Depth and Tire Chains
Sponsors: Mitch Bush; Rankin

HB 15-1173

This bill would require noncommercial motor vehicles driving on I-70 between Dotsero and Morrison between November 1 through May 15th to have tires with any form of the mountain-snowflake symbol and a tread depth of 1/8 of an inch or carry tire chains or an equivalent traction control device.

Status: 03/06/2015 House Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

Special Fuel Tax on Liquefied Petroleum Gas
Sponsors: Mitch Bush, Coram, Rankin; Scott

HB 15-1228

This bill makes several changes to the collection, imposition and administration of fuel excise tax on LPG including the following:

- Adds a private commercial fleet operator that uses LPG to the definition of "distributor";
- Changes the definition of "gallons" for LPG from a gross gallon to a net gallon, which accounts for temperature differences that affect LPG measurements;
- Limits the imposition of the tax so that in most instances it is only levied when LPG is placed in a motor vehicle's fuel tank, which is currently defined as a "use", instead of when the fuel is acquired, sold, offered for sale, or used for any purpose whatsoever;
- Requires a distributor that uses LPG from a cargo tank to propel a cargo tank motor vehicle to pay the tax on the gallons of LPG used to propel the motor vehicle, based on the vehicle's miles traveled;
- Requires a distributor that places the LPG in a fuel tank to pay the tax or, if none, for a non-distributor user to pay it;
- Eliminates the 2% allowance for LPG lost in transit or in handling;
- Prohibits the department of revenue from collecting any penalties or interest related to the LPG excise tax that is due from January 1, 2014, until January 1, 2016;
- Eliminates the minimum \$25,000 bond amount for LPG distributors;
- Eliminates the requirement that a LPG distributor preprint the serially numbered invoices for each sale or transfer of LPG.

Status: 03/04/2015 House Committee on Transportation & Energy Refer Amended to Finance

Promote Precipitation Harvesting Pilot Projects
Sponsor: Coram; Sonnenberg

HB 15-1016

House Bill 09-1129 established a 10-year pilot program for the collection of precipitation from rooftops for non-potable uses. The program can include up to 10 new residential or mixed-use developments. This bill, recommended by the Water Resources Review Committee, changes the requirements for the program to encourage more applicants.

Status: 03/02/2015 House Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources Refer Amended to Finance

Water Efficiency Savings Instream Use Pilot Program
Sponsor: Becker

HB 15-1222

The bill authorizes the Colorado water conservation board to select the sponsors of up to 12 pilot projects for the board's acquisition of water efficiency savings for instream flow use without the need for a water court-decreed change of water right. In order to be able to collect sufficient data, each project should operate for at least 10 years.

Status: 03/09/2015 House Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources Refer Amended to House Committee of the Whole

Promote Water Conservation in Land Use Planning
Sponsor: Roberts; Vigil, Coram

SB 15-008

The bill requires the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in consultation with the Division of Planning in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), to develop training programs for local government water and land use planners on best management practices for water demand management and conservation. The CWCB will provide the training on a recurring basis free of charge and make recommendations on how to better integrate water demand management and conservation into land use planning.

Status: 02/27/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources + Appropriations

Return on Water from Tail Ditch
Sponsor: Hodge; Arndt & Becker

SB 15-055

This bill allows a person using an irrigation ditch system to use a tailwater ditch to return water to a stream in variable amounts to facilitate efficient operation of the ditch and delivery of water to persons served by the ditch system. The state engineer shall not require the delivery of any minimum amount of water unless required by a court decree. Tailwater ditches are used to collect and conserve excess surface water draining from an irrigated field. Current law requires the installation of tailwater ditches by ditch owners to return water with as little waste as possible back to the stream from which the water was taken.

Status: 03/09/2015 House Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

Application of State Water Law to Federal Agencies**SB 15-064****Sponsor:** Sonnenberg

This bill prohibits the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from placing conditions on special use permits, or for rights-of-way on federal land, that:

- demand that the owner of a water right or conditional water right assign partial or joint ownership of the water right to the USFS or the BLM;
- impose limitations on a water right that restrict the water right owner's ability to receive fair market value for the water right;
- impose limitations on the alienation of a water right; or
- impose restrictions that give the USFS or BLM full or partial control over the use of a water right.

Further, the bill prohibits the State Engineer and division engineers in the Department of Natural Resources from cooperating with the USFS or the BLM in administering or enforcing the conditions identified above on special use permits, or for rights-of-way on federal land.

AGNC- SUPPORT**Status:** 03/02/2015 Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Quantify Water Rights Historical Consumptive Use**SB 15-183****Sponsor:** Hodge

When a water judge decrees a change in water right, this bill requires that the measurement of the historical use of the water be based on the actual historical use of the water right for its designated purpose, over a representative study period. Under the bill, the study period:

- includes wet years, dry years, and average years;
- excludes years when the water right was not used for its decreed purposes; and
- need not include every historical year of the use of the subject water, or periods of nonuse of the water right.

A water judge cannot reconsider or re-quantify the historical consumptive use of a water right if it has been quantified in a previous change decree. However, to limit future consumptive use to the previously quantified historical consumptive use, the water judge may impose terms and conditions on the future use of the portion of the water right that is subject to the change.

Status: 03/13/2015 Senate Second Reading Laid Over Daily - No Amendments

Storm Water Facilities Not Injure Water Rights**SB 15-212****Sponsors:** Sonnenberg; Winter**NEW**

The bill specifies that storm water detention and infiltration facilities and post-wildland fire facilities do not injure water rights and therefore do not require augmentation plans. A "storm water detention and infiltration facility" is defined as a facility that is owned or operated by a governmental entity or is subject to oversight by a governmental entity, designed and operated to continuously release or infiltrate at least 97% of all of the water from rainfall events that are equal to or less than a 5-year storm within 72 hours after the end of the rainfall event, and continuously release or infiltrate the water from rainfall events greater than a 5-year storm as quickly as practicable, but in no event over a period in excess of 120 hours. The facility must operate passively and cannot actively treat the storm water.

CML-SUPPORT**Status:** 03/12/2015 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

FACT SHEET: President Obama Launches New TechHire Initiative

 wh.gov/iDgsv

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 09, 2015

President Obama Announces Multi-Sector Effort and Call to Action to Give Americans Pathways to Well-Paying Technology Jobs; Makes Available \$100 Million in Grants

The President and his Administration are focused on promoting middle class economics to ensure that all Americans can contribute to and benefit from our American resurgence. Part of that effort requires empowering every American with the education and training they need to earn higher wages. Today's announcement is the latest part of that effort: In his remarks to the National League of Cities, the President will announce his TechHire initiative, including a new campaign to work with communities to get more Americans rapidly trained for well-paying technology jobs.

Middle class economics has driven the President from day one, and it is what has fueled our comeback. On Friday, we learned that our economy created nearly 300,000 new jobs in February. American businesses have now added more than 200,000 jobs a month for the past 12 months, the longest streak of job creation at that pace in 37 years. All told, over the past five years, our businesses have created 12 million new jobs.

While we are seeing an economic resurgence, the President has made clear that there is still work left to do. America has about 5 million open jobs today, more than at any point since 2001. Over half a million of those job openings are in information technology fields like software development, network administration, and cybersecurity- many of which did not even exist just a decade ago. The average salary in a job that requires information technology (IT) skills – whether in manufacturing, advertising, retail or banking – is 50 percent higher than the average private-sector American job. Helping more Americans train and connect to these jobs is a key element of the President's middle-class economics agenda.

As part of that agenda, **TechHire** is a bold multi-sector effort and call to action to empower Americans with the skills they need, through universities and community colleges but also nontraditional approaches like "coding bootcamps," and high-quality online courses that can rapidly train workers for a well-paying job, often in just a few months. Employers across the United States are in critical need of talent with these skills. Many of these programs do not require a four-year degree. Key elements of the initiative include:

- Over twenty forward-leaning communities are committing to take action – working with each other and with national employers – to expand access to tech jobs. To kick off TechHire, 20 regions, with over 120,000 open technology jobs and more than 300 employer partners in need of this workforce, are announcing plans to work together to new ways to recruit and place applicants based on their actual skills and to create more fast track tech training opportunities. The President is challenging

other communities across the country to follow their lead.

- \$100 million in new Federal investments to train and connect more workers to a good job in technology and other in-demand fields. The Administration will launch a \$100 million H-1B grant competition by the Department of Labor to support innovative approaches to training and successfully employing low-skill individuals with barriers to training and employment including those with child care responsibilities, people with disabilities, disconnected youth, and limited English proficient workers, among others. This grant competition will support the scaling up of evidence-based strategies such as accelerated learning, work-based learning, and Registered Apprenticeships.
- Private sector boosts tools and resources to support and expand continued innovation in technology training, with a focus on reaching under-served populations. Private sector leaders are announcing commitments to provide free training through online training slots and expanding “coding bootcamps” – which provide intensive training for well-paying jobs, often in the course of just a few months – to low-income and underserved Americans including women, minorities, and veterans across the nation. National organizations are committing to work with interested cities to share job and skills information, job-matching tools, and other resources to help support the growth, adoption, and creation of promising practices across the United States.

Details on the Tech Hire Initiative

The TechHire initiative builds on work communities like Louisville, St. Louis, Philadelphia, New York City and the State of Delaware are doing to connect more Americans to well-paying technology jobs through a potent combination of new tools and training models:

Over twenty forward-leaning communities are committing to take action – with each other and with national employers – to expand access to tech jobs: The TechHire initiative will achieve its goals by connecting communities together so promising ideas happening in one community can be rapidly adopted by other regions. Today, 21 communities are stepping up and responding to the President’s call-to-action, including:

Louisville	New York City	Philadelphia	Delaware	City of Kearney and Buffalo County, NE
Colorado	St. Louis		Salt Lake City	San Antonio
Los Angeles	Minneapolis	Kansas City	Memphis	Rural Eastern Kentucky
Nashville	Rochester	Detroit	San Francisco	Albuquerque
Chattanooga	Portland			

Building on the promising work already underway in their communities, they are all committing to three actions:

- Using data and innovative hiring practices to expand openness to non-traditional hiring: Having a data-driven assessment of employer demand is critical to building a successful regional strategy. Communities are committing to work with employers to build robust data on where they have greatest needs and what skills they are looking for; communities will work with employers to build willingness to hire from both nontraditional and traditional training programs; and communities will work with employers to review -and upgrade -their recruiting and hiring practices to enable non-traditional hiring.
- Expanding models for training that prepare students in months, not years: Communities will recruit, incubate and expand accelerated tech learning programs – such as coding bootcamps and innovative online training – which enable interested non-tech-experienced students to gain coding

skills in months, not years. These new models also have potential to reaching to a broader set of students than have traditionally chosen to pursue tech careers. These new training programs can be run both independently or embedded as part of a local community college or university education offering.

- **Active local leadership to connect people to jobs with hiring on ramp programs:** Communities will build local strategies and partnerships to connect people to jobs, with steps ranging from investing in and working with industry-trusted organizations, which will vouch for those who have the skills to do the job but who may lack the typical profile of degrees and career experience. They will host local tech community gatherings with engaged employers, attract new non-traditional training providers to their regions, and bring visibility to existing local activities such as tech meet-ups, startup co-working spaces or startup-weekends - which are already in place in most middle-size cities or encouraging the founding of these groups if they are not available locally.

The Administration is encouraging more communities and employers to follow in their lead with similar innovative strategies to advance these goals.

Examples of TechHire Community Commitments

- **St. Louis, MO.** A network of over 150 employers in St. Louis' rapidly expanding innovation ecosystem will build on a successful Mastercard pilot to partner with local non-profit Launchcode, to build the skills of women and underrepresented minorities for tech jobs, and will also place 250 apprentices in jobs in 2015 at employers like Monsanto, CitiBank, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, and Anheuser Busch.
- **New York City, NY.** With employers including Microsoft, Verizon, Goldman Sachs, Google, and Facebook, the Tech Talent Pipeline is announcing new commitments to prepare college students in the City University of New York (CUNY) system for and connect them to paid internship opportunities at local tech companies. NYC will also expand successful models like the NYC Web Development Fellowship serving 18-26 year olds without a college degree in partnership with the Flatiron School.
- **State of Delaware.** The new Delaware TechHire initiative is committing to training entry-level developers in a new accelerated coding bootcamp and Java and .Net accelerated community college programs giving financial institutions and healthcare employers, throughout the state, access to a new cohort of skilled software talent in a matter of months. JP Morgan Chase, Capital One and others are committing to placing people trained in these programs this year.
- **Louisville, KY.** Louisville has convened over 20 IT employers as part of the Code Louisville initiative to train and place new software developers, including Glowtouch, Appriss, Humana, Zirmed, and Indatus. Louisville will build on this work in support of the TechHire Initiative: the city will recruit a high-quality coding bootcamp to Louisville and establish a new partnership between Code Louisville and local degree granting institutions to further standardize employer recognition of software development skillsets.

A \$100 million competition for innovative approaches to connect Americans with disabilities, disconnected youth, and others to the fastest path to a good job in technology and other in-demand fields.

Today the Administration is announcing its commitment to make \$100 million available through the Department of Labor to support innovative approaches to moving lower skilled workers with barriers to

training and employment on the fastest paths to well-paying information technology and high growth jobs in industries like healthcare, advanced manufacturing, financial services and other in-demand sectors. The grant will focus on providing workers the skills for a pathway to the middle class while providing employers with the skilled technology workers need to grow and expand. This grant will serve people with barriers to accessing training including people with childcare responsibilities, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, and disconnected youth, among others. It will serve both unemployed and low skilled front line workers.

Grants will pilot and scale innovative partnerships between employers, workforce boards, training institutions, non-profit organizations, and cities and states across the country. These partnerships will support the implementation of job-driven training strategies to help workers complete basic and technical skills training using evidence-based strategies such as accelerated learning, work-based learning and Registered Apprenticeships. A solicitation for applications for these partnerships will be available this fall and awards will be made next year. These grants will be financed by a user fee paid by employers to bring foreign workers into the United States under the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program.

Private sector leaders are announcing tools and resources to scale continued innovation in technology training, with a focus on reaching under-served populations.

Expanding accelerated models for training in months not years:

- A group of 10 bootcamps are jointly announcing a shared, third-party validated format for annually publishing completion and employment outcomes to help continue to drive innovation in the bootcamp model.
- The accelerated training providers **Dev Bootcamp, Hack Reactor, Microsoft, Treehouse Island, Inc., and Udacity** will all be expanding free or discounted training slots for underserved communities and individuals.
- **General Assembly** will work with community colleges, other training providers, and employers with the aim of further standardizing web development training
- **Flatiron School, Hackbright Academy, and Rural Sourcing** are announcing they will provide pro bono consulting to help interested communities expand and improve training.
- Cisco will provide select individuals interested in career opportunities in IT with free access to online IT networking skills including hundreds of online training assets.

Support for local leaders:

- **Opportunity@Work**, a national civic enterprise that is launching at New America today, will aim to connect policy to action and will collaborate with private and philanthropic partners to create freely available tools to scale-up employer commitments to inclusive hiring practices, to facilitate a nationwide learning network for communities, and to create new financing to help lower-income Americans be trained and placed into technology jobs.
- **Capital One**, through its FutureEdge initiative, a \$150 million effort that will help increase tech skills and hiring, will collaborate with Opportunity@Work to provide support tailored to the needs of communities.
- **#YesWeCode** commits to delivering \$10 million in scholarships for 2,000 underserved minorities across the nation, to attend coding bootcamps over the next ten years.

Using data and innovative hiring practices to expand hiring to include non-traditional training paths:

- **CEB** will develop their own best practices playbook for employers with guidance to private and public employers on how to recruit tech talent from non-traditional sources as well as free labor market snapshots from CEB Talent Neuron for select communities to surface talent supply-demand gaps.
- **LinkedIn** will provide free data about the supply and demand of IT skills to communities to help them identify shortages and focus training resources on skills most in-demand.
- **Knack** will for the first time make its aptitude test technology available free of charge to employers, communities, and accelerated training providers that are launching inclusive training and hiring campaigns aimed at underserved minorities, women, and veterans.

A complete list of private sector commitments can be found [here](#).

The President's Agenda to Create Pathways to the Middle-Class Through High-Quality, Job-Driven Training. TechHire is part of the President's broader agenda to invest in job-driven training:

- **Vice-President Biden's Job-Driven Training Review**. The President's TechHire initiative builds on the job-driven training review that the President asked the Vice President to lead in the 2013 State of the Union. Amongst other findings, the Vice President's review identified information technology generally and cybersecurity in particular as an emerging area of growth that requires job-driven training strategies to meet business needs and provide more workers with a path to the middle class.
- **VA Accelerated Learning Competition**. To ensure that Veterans can take full advantage of innovative learning models, VA will apply \$10M in innovation funding to leverage accelerated learning and test its effectiveness for transitioning Servicemembers and Veterans over the next two years. VA will concentrate this initiative in communities where conditions are conducive for VA to provide industry-specific and place-based support to Veterans and transitioning Servicemembers
- **American Apprenticeship Grant Competition**. Last year, DOL opened a \$100 million competition to spur partnerships between employers, labor, training providers, and local governments to expand apprenticeships into high-growth fields like information technology and scale models that work. The deadline for this application is April 30, 2015, and more information is available at the [Grants.gov](#) application page.
- **Information Technology Industry-Credentialing partnerships**. The President's FY2016 budget proposes \$300 million to fund IT jobs partnerships between regional employers to develop and adopt assessments and credentials that will give more people the chance to qualify for a better, higher-paying tech job regardless of their pedigree.