

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Overview of the 2024 Legislative Session

OVERVIEW

Colorado Chamber Delivers on its Promises in 2024 Legislative Session

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

At the beginning of the legislative session, we set out to accomplish major priorities to make Colorado more economically competitive. We're proud of the progress we've made toward the ambitious goals laid out in our legislative agenda. Our collaborative work with our members and state lawmakers has led to the passage of historic legislation addressing many of the state's pressing business issues, even preventing a series of expensive conflicts from reaching the ballot this year. From finding a balanced, long-term solution to property tax reform to tackling critical workforce development issues, the Colorado Chamber continues to deliver on its 10-year strategic action plan to elevate the state's business climate.



Loren Furman

President & CEO

The Most Successful Session for Business in Years: How the Colorado Chamber Led on Major Legislation in 2024

By Meghan Dollar and Cynthia Eveleth-Havens

As lawmakers concluded the 2024 legislative session on May 9, the Colorado Chamber celebrated a number of remarkable victories for the business community after many hard-fought policy battles at the State Capitol.

The Colorado Chamber has a long history of aggressively fighting for business at the legislature, but this year was different. The 2024 legislative session was the first since the Chamber launched its 10-year strategic action plan to improve Colorado's economic climate. The plan, guided by extensive economic research and competitiveness data, sets out a bold vision with specific goals, actions and metrics for success.

Policy solutions and advocacy are key components to this long-term plan, and this legislative session was critical to setting Colorado on the right path.



Meghan Dollar

Senior Vice President
Governmental Affairs
& Political Operations



Cynthia Eveleth-Havens

Senior Vice President
Communications

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That’s why the Colorado Chamber’s legislative agenda released ahead of the session set out to tackle big-picture issues with ambitious, proactive policy priorities. In addition, the Chamber’s advocacy team was prepared to aggressively protect the business community against costly bills that threatened the state’s competitiveness.

The result? The passage of historic legislation improving Colorado’s business landscape and the resounding defeat of a series of bills that would have threatened businesses and jobs.

The Colorado Chamber played a lead role in major negotiations and bill packages impacting the business community. One key priority coming into 2024 was tackling workforce development – a top issue for Colorado business leaders in the Chamber’s recent annual surveys. The Chamber’s Education to Employment Alliance, established last year, put forth a series of policy recommendations to address the issue, and a slate of bills emerged from that report this session. Working closely with the Governor’s Office and the Legislature, the bipartisan bill package passed successfully despite a tight budget year, marking a significant win on the Chamber’s legislative agenda.

Another key issue identified by the Chamber as being critical to sustained economic growth is Colorado’s high cost of living. This was the top issue for employers when trying to recruit and retain talent; Coloradans need to be able to afford to live here in order to work here. The Chamber took an active role in supporting legislation that would allow for more housing development, expand affordable housing, lower taxes, and incentivize the creation and development of child care facilities. Together, these bills will help rein in costs for Colorado families.

Much of the Chamber’s work this session focused on finding compromise between political parties and stakeholders on major legislation that ultimately prevented a series of expensive conflicts from reaching the ballot in November. This includes a deal preventing the elimination of noneconomic damage caps that keep litigation costs in check, would have cost over \$2 billion in annual GDP for the state.

And the Colorado Chamber’s President and CEO Loren Furman, who served on a special state-appointed property tax commission, spent many late nights at the Capitol working for the passage of an historic \$1.3 billion property tax relief package. Furman was recognized by the bill’s sponsors as being instrumental in bringing stakeholders together on the final proposal.

While the Chamber saw momentous victories in its proactive legislative strategy, its work playing defense against bad bills was as effective as ever. Colorado has reached a critical point when it comes to its regulatory climate – its growing complexity and cost to business is threatening our long-term competitiveness and future growth. The Chamber has pushed for a “do no harm” approach when



“Kodiak’s investment to Vision 2033 is a commitment to actively shape Colorado’s economic landscape. This is our home and we have seen firsthand the negative impact on job creation and affordability as a result of the rapid rise of new mandates and regulatory burdens on the business community. Vision 2033 is a data-driven, common-sense approach to reversing the tide to return Colorado to a national leader in growth and quality of life, where we belong.”



STEVE SWINNEY
CEO, Kodiak Building
Partners on why he’s
invested in the
Chamber’s long-term
vision.



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it comes to new legislation; let the policies passed in recent years take full effect before moving the goal posts or creating new regulatory burdens.

While that message has resonated with key lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, it didn't stop several bills from being introduced that would have set our economy back and impeded the Chamber's long-term vision to make Colorado a top state for business. That's why in March, the Colorado Chamber unveiled an aggressive campaign against eight bills it labeled as "job killers." The impact of these bills spanned across a variety of sectors, from energy industries to manufacturing to health care and more.

Through the Chamber's grassroots action alerts, supporters of the business community made more than 4,300 contacts with legislators in opposition to these bills. In total, all eight job killers were defeated – seven died in the legislature and the eighth bill was vetoed by Governor Polis. This effort was one of the most important victories for business this session.



The major takeaway for employers on the 2024 legislative session is this: Colorado businesses are better off now than they were in January, and the Colorado Chamber will continue to deliver on its promises.



\$74 Million

Tax credits for the quantum sector



\$1.3 Billion

Property tax relief for Colorado businesses and individuals



\$30 Million

Affordable housing funding through HB 1434



\$250,000

for child care facility development

The 2024 Legislative Session by the Numbers



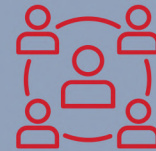
\$2.1 Billion

GDP reduction if noneconomic damage caps were eliminated



\$1.4 Billion

Tourism revenue saved through the defeat of SB 33



300,000

Oil and gas jobs preserved through the defeat of SB 159



\$12.3 Billion

New employer payroll taxes avoided through defeat of HB 1075

ON THE ISSUES

Colorado Chamber Goes 8-0 in Aggressive Campaign Against Job-Killing Bills



By: Cynthia Eveleth-Havens

Senior Vice President
Communications

At the beginning of the legislative session, the Colorado Chamber became aware of several major environmental bills in the works that would have had broad impacts on the business community. Those bills included a total ban on new oil and gas development and complex layers of new regulations.

The Chamber launched an early campaign against these bills – even before all of them were formally introduced. It garnered well over 600 petition signatures spanning across the state and presented that petition to legislators in one of the bills' first committee hearings.

“We’re seeing an alarming influx in proposals at the Capitol that put the livelihoods of Coloradans at risk this session. The consequences extend far beyond the energy sector, targeting workers employed directly or indirectly by an entire industry and creating complex new regulations intentionally designed to slow growth,” President and CEO Loren Furman said at the time.

As additional bills were filed, the Chamber unveiled its full-fledged “Job Killers” campaign, calling out a total of eight bills on its target list. The bills spanned across industries, but they all had one thing in common – they threatened the livelihoods of Coloradans and our state’s overall competitiveness. An overview of each bill and its ultimate fate in the legislature is below:

Oil and Gas Ban: SB 159 would have imposed a complete ban on all new oil and development across the state, upending the entire industry in Colorado. This bill was the first on the Job Killers list to die in committee after significant backlash from the business community.

Economic Blow to Tourism Communities: SB 33 would have imposed heavy property tax increases on short term rental owners, devastating small businesses and property owners in mountain resort communities. The proposal faced overwhelming opposition from local businesses, chambers of commerce and the tourism industry and failed in a 6-1 vote in its first committee.

Job Killers

“When it comes to Colorado’s economic climate, the most significant threat to our competitiveness that we hear from business leaders is the state’s overly complex regulatory environment. Together, these bills would have made the situation even worse, driving companies out Colorado and taking jobs with them. Legislators need to understand that the business community needs regulatory relief, and this will continue to be a key focus of the Chamber’s work in the years to come.”



MEGHAN DOLLAR
SVP of Government
Affairs
Colorado Chamber
Press Release, May 2024

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Stephen Shepard, CAE - 2nd
Executive VP @ Denver Metro BOMA | CAE
1mo · Edited · 🌐

The [The Colorado Chamber of Commerce](#) has long opposed mandates that increase costs for healthcare industries, employers, and their employees.

House Bill 1075, on the Chamber's "Job Killers" list, would go a step further and set the foundation for a single-payer, government-run healthcare payment system in Colorado. The Senate Health and Human Services Committee will hear the bill this week.

Similar legislation has recently passed in the state of Oregon. The task force proposed a system that is estimated to cost \$20 billion in new taxes, including a \$12.3 billion employer payroll tax.

Coloradans soundly rejected a universal health care proposal on the ballot several years ago. Please use the Chamber's grassroots tool below to tell committee members to OPPOSE House Bill 1075.

Job Killer Alert! Single-Payer Health Care Bill Moves to Senate

cochamber.com

"We should be taking action to preserve jobs and attract business, not making our regulatory environment even worse. The Colorado Chamber will be an aggressive voice for the business community against bills that drive employers – and jobs – out of Colorado."



LOREN FURMAN
President & CEO
March 2024 Chamber
Press Release



Vail Valley Partnership
@VVPPartnership

Thank you, [@ColoradoChamber](#) and [@COCompetes](#), for opposing SB24-033 and recognizing the detrimental economic impacts this will have on Colorado's mountain communities (cc: [@AspenCO](#) [@GWSChamber](#) [@SummitChamber](#) [@SteamboatCO](#))

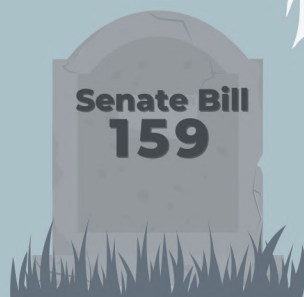
Costly New Regulatory Burdens: Next on the chopping block were Senate Bills 165 and 166. Together, these bills would have created complex new enforcement regulations on a broad range of businesses, imposed a seasonal oil and gas ban, and attempted to revive a previously failed effort to mandate worker commutes in Colorado. These bills were pulled down by the sponsors after a deal was struck between the Governor's Office, legislative leadership, and stakeholders in the energy industry. As part of that deal, several pending ballot initiatives were withdrawn and lawmakers agreed to hold off on any new legislation impacting oil and gas production for two years.

More Red Tape for Business: In the final days of the legislature, two additional environmental bills died on the House Appropriations Committee calendar. HB 1330 would have created more red tape for business, adding layers of complex regulations to obtain environmental and construction permits and intentionally imposing costly barriers to industry. HB 1339 would have overhauled the state's emissions standards and reversed much of the Chamber's work on rulemaking in the last year. Colorado Chamber members made more than 2,000 contacts with legislators in opposition to both of these bills.

Single-Payer Health Care: HB 1075 would have created model legislation for a single-payer health care system in Colorado, despite the fact that voters have already resoundingly rejected such a plan on the ballot. This would have laid the groundwork for billions of dollars in payroll taxes on Colorado's workforce and business community. The bill cleared the full House and Senate committees before dying on the floor of the Senate in the final hours of session.

Construction Labor Market Disruption: HB 1008 was introduced with the intention of combatting wage theft in Colorado, but in practice, the bill would have incentivized the very thing it was trying to prevent. It would have shifted responsibility and put general contractors on the hook for the illegal actions of other business entities, threatening jobs and setting a damaging precedent. While the bill passed through the legislature before sine die, it was vetoed by the governor after the Colorado Chamber and other business groups expressed concerns.

2024 Job Killers GRAVEYARD



**Where Bad-for-Business
Bills Go to Die**

ON THE ISSUES

Energy & Environment: Meaningful Regulatory Stability for the Energy Sector through 2026



By: Ed Sealover

Editor, The Sum & Substance
Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

As oil and gas industry leaders listened to a news conference on February 22 introducing three far-reaching air quality bills, things looked grim.

While backers — some in legislative leadership — proclaimed it was time for “system-changer” legislation, Colorado Oil & Gas Association President/CEO Dan Haley characterized the proposals very differently, saying they “seek to end the Colorado oil and gas industry.”

“SB 159 was one of the most hostile bills targeting the energy industry we’ve ever seen, and its impact would have resonated far beyond oil and gas. The disturbing volume of bills coming from the Capitol that create an unwelcoming environment for business sends the wrong message across the state. This is about preserving jobs, and members who voted ‘no’ tonight acted in support of the hundreds of thousands of Coloradans directly or indirectly employed by the energy industry. We applaud their courage and support of the statewide business community.”



LOREN FURMAN
President & CEO
March 2024 Chamber
press release

Fast forward three months, and executives from the oil and gas industry joined Governor Jared Polis and legislators in Westminster as Representative Jenny Willford, D-Northglenn, proposed two new laws that “are going to be game-changers in Colorado when it comes to cleaning up our air quality and our air pollution problem.” The words were similar, but the final products of months of negotiations were decidedly different.

In the final weeks of session, a compromise was reached to table the pause on fracking during summer months, mandate heavy nonnegotiable fines on repeat offenders and ramp up modeling requirements for permits — as well as a separate bill to ban new oil and gas drilling altogether by 2030. Instead were reasonable approaches targeted at “repeat offenders” and with new projects in disproportionately impacted communities, a \$110 million annual fee on oil and gas production — and a promise of no new legislative or ballot demands through 2026.

On one hand, the negotiated outcome was a huge win for the industry, giving producers an achievable set of goals that allow for reduction in air pollution via use of the latest technology and equipment rather than debilitating fines and new requirements that Haley told a House committee would “grind air quality permitting to a halt.” Environmental organizations also cheered, noting that that new fees would go largely to transit, meeting their long-standing goal to beef up one of the least funded public bus and train systems in America and give commuters more options.

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On the other hand, The two measures that replaced the far-reaching air quality bills — Senate bills 229 and 230 — still frustrated some, particularly Western Slope leaders like the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce who said their producers may be paying new fees to prop up Front Range rail.

When asked broadly for their assessment of the 2024 session, leaders from the oil and gas industry said they achieved a meaningful period of legislative and regulatory stability.

Governor Polis acknowledged during a signing ceremony for SB 229 and 230 at Westminster Station on May 16 that “when this work started out, none of us knew whether this was possible.” But he lauded groups from Earthjustice to GreenLatinos for sitting down with industry leaders and finding what was possible to reduce carbon emissions and air pollution, keep a prominent industry strong and boost transit.

In addition to battling four bills that would have set unprecedented regulations on extraction, business leaders fought a bill to roll back concessions from two 2023 rulemaking hearings and a proposal that essentially would have allowed local governments a veto over any project.

House Bill 1338, passed after that veto section was removed and should be signed by Polis, despite warnings from Senator Bob Gardner, R-Colorado Springs, that it unconstitutionally targets an individual company.

If the results of the 2024 legislative session were acceptable to the oil and gas industry, they also elicited praise from the environmental community, despite the significant cutbacks to proposed regulations that ended up passing.

In statements, groups like the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project and the Colorado Public Interest Research Group (CoPIRG) emphasized it wasn’t just the new regulations but other bills that could go a long way to cleaning the air. The transit-funding boost in SB 230 and other laws will allow people to consider giving up single-occupancy vehicle trips, while Polis’ affordable housing package focuses on getting new construction along transit lines, allowing for sustainable planning in a way the state has not before, they said.

Maybe that give-and-take was epitomized most on House Bill 1346, which sought to give the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission regulatory power over carbon capture technology, which represents both a way to remove carbon from the air and boost a new line of business for energy companies. While environmentalists managed to add into the bill a definition of cumulative impacts that will affect ECMC consideration of all oil and gas permits, industry officials called it a reluctant but necessary tradeoff to give divergent interest groups what they needed.



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“Climate change is a long-term business issue, and we’re committed to collaborating with environmental advocates and policy leaders to reduce emissions and work towards decarbonization. We also must recognize that new technologies require flexibility and a clear regulatory framework to fuel private sector innovation and investment.”



LOREN FURMAN
 President & CEO
 January 9, 2024
 Chamber press release
 announcing
 Environmental Task
 Force report

Aside from oil and gas, legislators also tackled other natural resources issues impacting the environmental regulatory landscape.

Competing bills took different approaches to regulating state waters after a U.S. Supreme Court decision limited federal oversight over streams and fens and left states responsible for dredge and fill permitting required for construction that disturbs the waterways. Legislators passed a compromise bill, HB 1379, that expands protections beyond original federal rules but also puts timelines on permitting to ensure construction isn’t delayed.

Senator Larry Liston, R-Colorado Springs, tried to jumpstart the nuclear power industry in the state in a bill to define the fusion source as clean power and make it eligible for financial incentives. The bill was defeated in the Senate committee. And state leaders banned the sale of more products manufactured with “forever chemicals” known as PFAS in order to protect state water supplies, though changes to Senate Bill 81 narrowed its scope significantly from what originally was proposed.

ON THE ISSUES

Boosting Colorado's Talent Pipeline



By: Ed Sealoover

Editor, The Sum & Substance
Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

During a legislative session dominated by controversies over housing, oil and gas and technology regulation, the Legislature also passed several bipartisan bills aimed at helping employers find applicants with the skill set they are seeking to fulfill jobs available statewide.

The workforce development package, announced by Governor Polis in March and then supplemented by a final college affordability bill introduced later, came as many employers cite a lack of skilled talent as one of their biggest obstacles to growth. It included several recommendations from the Education to Employment Alliance, of which the Colorado Chamber of Commerce is a founding member, including a key new regional talent development program.

It will take several years to see the full impact of the package, as it launches planning processes that will lead to creation of new career pipelines that will reach down as far as middle school to give students direction into fields in which they are interested. But employers also can take advantage of some of the new offerings right away, including new tax credits for offering apprenticeships or expanding in-house training facilities.

“It’s transformative to have members of the business community at the Capitol, advocating for workforce development and improving learner outcomes,” said Colorado Succeeds President Scott Laband, whose organization played a key role in passing the package. “We’re eager to continue this important work with the Education to Employment Alliance, in partnership with Governor Polis and his office, to ensure Colorado learners are prepared for Colorado jobs.”

House Bill 1365 encapsulates many of the aims of the package and was the bill in which the Colorado Chamber was most involved. Chamber staffers worked closely with sponsors and Polis’ office on details of the legislation, and Chamber President and CEO Loren Furman testified for the measure before several legislative committees.



“Shaping the workforce of the future requires collaboration and innovative ideas, and this legislation addresses a critical need faced by both employers and workers across the state. Creating regional talent development plans will help provide consistency and align measurable goals to bolster Colorado’s talent pipeline and expand opportunity across our local communities.”



REP. MEGHAN LUKENS

March 2024
Chamber press release

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Katie Zaback · 2nd
Helping to create an education ecosystem
that helps all Coloradans achieve economi...
1mo · Edited ·

+ Follow

So grateful to get to work on this bill with the [The Colorado Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade](#) and the amazing sponsors! It's a step forward for a coordinated talent strategy in Colorado!

The bill funds seven regional summits in which employers will sit down with education and government leaders to discuss which sectors and careers are the shortest of talent and how the groups can partner to train workers for those fields. From the summits will come two- and five-year plans in each region that could involve creation of new career pathways in schools, establishment of certificate programs for specific needs or funding of innovation campuses focused on trade skills.

It also adds a fourth tranche of funding for the Opportunity Now program in which industry groups partner with educational institutions to create new training programs and receive state financial help in doing so. And it creates a new tax credit, funded at \$15 million, for employers seeking to purchase equipment and expand facilities for the purpose of boosting worker training programs.

“Our number-one goal was to identify what are the workforce gaps that are significantly unaddressed and what are the achievable solutions we can put in place,” Furman told the House Finance Committee.

Other bills that reflected recommendations made by the Education to Employment Alliance included:

- HB 1364, which creates a longitudinal data system that students, parents, educators and policy makers can use to track the success of programs from early childhood education to college majors.
- HB 1439, which establishes a tax credit of up to \$12,600 a year for employers offering apprenticeships, puts \$2 million to helping scale up existing apprenticeship programs and offers \$2 million in grants for community organizations like chambers of commerce to serve as intermediaries connecting educational programs to small-to-medium-sized employers wanting to offer apprenticeships;
- SB 104, which increases alignment between the career and technical education division of the Colorado Community College System and the state apprenticeship agency to more seamlessly connect students to career opportunities; and,
- SB 143, which requires the state to evaluate non-degree credentials like industry certifications and postsecondary certificates and include them in a portfolio of stackable credentials for education and employment purposes.

Finally, legislators also passed HB 1340, which creates tax credits that will allow in-state students to get repaid for two years of schooling at any public university, community college or trade school in Colorado. The bipartisan bill's purpose is both to help students pay for college and serve as an incentive for Colorado high school graduates to matriculate within the state, which could make them more likely to begin careers here and meet employers' workforce needs.



“State leaders need to understand the broader impact of their policies on the workforce and business, and we'll continue to beat that drum at the capitol to improve Colorado's economic trajectory and outlook.”



LOREN FURMAN
President & CEO
Speaking to the Denver
Business Journal in
December 2023

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While legislators have made past efforts to boost work-based learning, the package is arguably the most concentrated set of bills to ensure that students and individuals looking to switch careers understand their options and have pathways to advance into professions. At a news conference, Polis described the goal of the combined measures as to “make opportunity universal to everyone in our state.”



Education to Employment Alliance: Opportunity Now Grants & Tax Credit



HB 1365
\$19 MILLION



7 REGIONAL TALENT SUMMITS
\$200,000



OPPORTUNITY NOW GRANT
\$3.8 MILLION



WORKFORCE TAX CREDIT
\$15 MILLION



7 REGIONAL WORKFORCE PLANS



NEW WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS



EXPANDED TRAINING FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT



ENHANCED WORKFORCE & TALENT PIPELINE

ON THE ISSUES

Getting Colorado's Cost of Living Crisis Under Control



By: Ed Sealover

Editor, The Sum & Substance
Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

Colorado employers who have said increasingly that the state's lack of affordable housing and high cost of living have created a competitive disadvantage for employee attraction and retention finally got some needed help from the legislature in 2024.

Governor Jared Polis signed into law six pieces of legislation that seek to address the housing issue by spurring more construction, particularly of lower cost multifamily units to limit rent and home sales costs that have risen steadily. And he signed a bipartisan bill that caps annual hikes in property tax bills for both residents and commercial property owners.

But the tentacles of the legislative effort to minimize the rising cost of living spread well beyond housing in 2024. Three bills passed to boost the number of childcare facilities, a business-brokered deal prevented ballot initiatives to remove caps on noneconomic damages in lawsuits, and a combination of legislative action and vetoes nixed a slew of proposals that would have hiked health insurance costs.

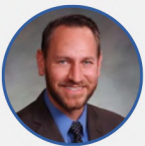
The full impact of the bills may not be apparent immediately. But the significant spikes in taxes and housing costs that have marked the period since the pandemic won't be coming in the same magnitude, said Loren Furman, the Colorado Chamber of Commerce CEO who sat on the Commission on Property Tax and help to craft details of the property tax break.

The property tax bill was the result of seven months of meetings and collaborative work by the Property Tax Commission which was created during the 2023 Special Session to develop long and short-term solutions to the current property tax system. During the 2023 Special Session a policy band-aid was adopted to temporarily reduce property taxes for homeowners and would have expired in June 2024. If not for SB 233, the emergency exemptions including an exemption of \$55,000 for homeowners would have gone away and the reduced assessment rate of 6.7% would have returned to 7.15%.

ColoradoEPIC
@ColoradoEPIC

.@ColoradoChamber supports HB24-1237. With 76% of CEOs noting affordability as a talent barrier, grants for facilities are crucial. The bill aims to enhance access and affordability, vital for workforce retention and economic growth. #coleg #childcare ow.ly/a4LI50QK3Iz

"Loren Furman with the Colorado Chamber was instrumental, they were in every conversation for weeks helping us bring this together."



REP CHRIS DEGRUY KENNEDY

Discussing the Chamber's involvement in the passage of SB 233 at the Governor's Press Conference

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“Employers are invested in finding solutions to address the historic rise in property taxes, improve the housing supply and more to make it easier to attract and retain talent in Colorado. This is critical for both workforce development and our long-term competitiveness as a state.”



LOREN FURMAN
President & CEO
Chamber Press Release,
May 2024



Senate Bill 233 limits property tax revenues collected for local governments from growing by more than 5.5% annually while decoupling those bills from property taxes that fund education, which will have more room for growth. It reduces the 29% assessment rate for nonresidential property to 25% by property tax year 2026 and cuts the 7.15% residential assessment rate while allowing homeowners to subtract 10% of home value, up to \$70,000, before their tax bills are calculated creating a maximum effective residential assessment rate of 6.2% for a home valued at \$400,000 and capped at 6.46% for a home valued at \$1 million.

The policy proposal was developed to balance many interests including services provided by local governments, k-12 and higher education interests, and other groups that would have seen significant cuts. The permanent reduction of commercial property tax is a significant win for the business community and notable considering the political makeup of the Legislature.

“Businesses and individuals across Colorado have faced historic rate increases that threaten our economic growth on a broad scale, from driving up the cost of doing business to exacerbating the housing affordability crisis,” Furman said. “This solution is a balanced approach for critical property tax relief.”

A sextet of land use reform bills that Polis championed drew heavily from lessons that backers learned when his omnibus affordable housing bill failed in 2023.

The centerpiece of the package requires 31 cities and counties with heavy transit presence to increase zoning density around train and bus lines to spur construction of apartments, condominiums and homes that can increase the state’s inventory of residences. The proposal includes grant funding and some mandates but lost its most controversial provision — the ability to withhold transportation funds from noncompliant local governments — to survive the legislative process.

Polis also signed bills to allow single family homeowners in metro areas to build accessory dwelling units as a right, eliminate minimum parking requirements for some urban development and ban cities from limiting the number of unrelated occupants in a home. Plus, legislators passed bipartisan laws to triple the available amount of tax credits available to developers of lower-cost housing and to offer financial and technical assistance to cities to undertake housing needs assessments and then act on them.

The most significant of the childcare bills offers grants and technical assistance to local governments, developers and childcare providers on how to incorporate daycare facilities into local planning and then help with raising capital for projects. Colorado needs about 90,000 more childcare slots to meet an existing need; their scarcity and the average monthly costs may cause parents to remain out of the workforce.

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Colorado employers won't be feeling health insurance pinches as much as they could have been after legislators failed to pass a bill that would have required coverage of expensive new obesity medication that could have raised private plan premiums more than \$140 a year. They also nixed a potentially costly bill to require health plans provide new fertility coverage, and Polis vetoed a measure that would have limited the practice of insurers requiring specialty cancer drugs to come from a specific pharmacy.

In addition, for the second year in a row, a bill to fund a study of how the state could set up a Canada-style single-payer health care system died on the Senate calendar amid complaints from businesses leaders of its large potential costs. Similar concerns doomed a bill that sought to require state regulated health insurance plans to include all primary care physicians meeting certain criteria — an effort to cut medical home churn that fell when its sponsor realized requirements encroached on cost-limiting provider networks.

And general liability insurance rates are likely to be more stable after the Colorado Chamber and other groups brokered a deal that prevented the elimination of medical malpractice and general liability caps that help manage litigation costs for businesses. The compromise included increases in the caps that avoided the potential passage of ballot initiatives pursued by the trial lawyers association that would have eliminated the caps and cause a \$2 billion impact to the State's GDP.

Unfortunately, business leaders didn't get everything they wanted in terms of affordable housing and cost of living.

A group of legislators blocked passage of a bill that would have made it harder for homeowners' associations to file construction defects lawsuits — a step builders say is necessary to bring insurers back to the state and restart the moribund condo market. And Polis also signed a bill giving local governments limited rights of first refusal and first offer over qualifying apartment complexes that are going up for sale, though the bill's scope is far more limited than that of a similar bill the governor vetoed last year.



“Removing the caps on noneconomic damages would have been a \$2.1 billion hit to our state economy. That would have been felt by businesses and consumers alike in the form of increased prices for goods and services, higher insurance rates, and lost jobs. This deal strikes the balance needed to prevent further deterioration of our legal and fiscal environment.”



LYN ELLIOTT
President, APCIA
May 2024 Colorado
Chamber press release
announcing compromise
on damage caps

By the Numbers: The Colorado Chamber's Exposure and Reach



600+

Petition signatures statewide
against costly environmental
legislation



70+

Newspaper and TV mentions
of the Chamber's legislative
work



4,300

Contacts with legislators using
the Chamber's Grassroots Tools

ON THE ISSUES

Protecting Colorado's Tech Industry Competitiveness



By: Ed Sealoover

Editor, The Sum & Substance
Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

In acknowledgement of the growing presence of technology in everyday life, the legislature this year weighed into more areas affecting innovative Colorado companies than at any time in memory, extending state regulations into sectors that didn't exist a decade ago.

The government made initial incursions into fields ranging from artificial intelligence to neural data collection and ventured further into the right to repair certain technologies and the regulation of broadband deployment. Business organizations, including the Colorado Chamber, worked to ensure the bills were crafted narrowly enough to not dissuade cutting-edge companies from launching and growing here.

Likely the most consequential bill of the session was Senate Bill 205, Senate Majority Leader Robert Rodriguez's nationally precedent setting law that will regulate development and deployment of artificial intelligence systems. The bill seeks to stop "high risk" systems from discriminating in decisions involving job applications, loan considerations or health care by requiring developers to provide information about machine learning processes and deployers to tell customers when AI systems helped determine outcomes.

Even after Rodriguez removed provisions to apply the regulations to general purpose AI like ChatGPT or synthetic AI that creates images, numerous technology leaders warned the bill still could cause entrepreneurs to launch or grow AI firms in other states with fewer rules. Senator Rodriguez assured concerned interest groups that a rulemaking process that would last through February 2026 would give ample opportunity for the Colorado Attorney General's office to craft regulations that would be neither too harsh nor too loose.

Still, in an indication of the questions that continue to hang over SB 205, Governor Polis penned a statement saying that he was signing the bill "with reservations" and imploring the federal government to weigh in to avoid a wide range of state-by-state regulations. And with that he seemed to ensure that AI, the biggest tech topic of the 2024 session, is likely to wear that crown again in future years.



CONTINUED



Legislators and state officials had considerably fewer concerns with a pair of bills that expand the year-old Colorado Privacy Act to allow consumers more control over not just their digital information but their biometric and neural data as well. House Bill 1130 requires companies gaining biometric identifiers like fingerprints or retinal scans to share that data with consumers and destroy it within 24 months, and HB 1058 bans sales of neural data gathered from non-medical instruments that read consumers' brain waves.

SB 41 enhanced protections specifically for data that companies gather from minors, while HB 1136 will require social media platforms display popup warnings to minors once they have been on certain websites for defined amounts of times. However, legislators failed to pass SB 158, which sought to make social media companies take bigger steps to implement age verification procedures, default to protective settings for kids and report violations of illegal activity content to law enforcement.



The sponsor of a bill that would have prohibited “junk fees” like event ticket surcharges and hotel resort fees assessed to all consumers whether or not they choose add-ons that increase purchase prices, also killed the bill when it seemed it needed more definition.

Legislators were discerning with technology-related tax credits as well. They approved \$74 million in new incentives to boost the state's quantum industry and help it to win a crucial designation from the federal government via HB 1325, but they did not back SB 85, a proposed sales and use tax rebate for data centers.



Polis did sign HB 1121, an expansion of the state's right to repair law allowing owners of digital electronics from computers to washing machines to fix equipment themselves or take it to an independent repair shop.

Finally, the legislature implemented first-in-the-nation requirements on companies such as Lyft, Uber and DoorDash requiring new transparency regarding the portion of fares that are given to drivers and allowing drivers to turn down jobs without negative repercussions. SB 75 and HB 1129, whose final wording was negotiated with companies, require the firms to inform drivers how to appeal deactivation decisions, though they stop short of requiring the state to serve to hear appeals of drivers who feel their termination is unjustified.

ON THE ISSUES

Businesses Get a Break in Major New Labor & Employment Regulations in 2024



“HB 1008 was extremely problematic for the business community and would have set a damaging precedent. It would have shifted responsibility and put general contractors on the hook for the illegal actions of other business entities, which actually could have incentivized the very thing it was trying to prevent. Punishing good actors is not a solution to wage theft. We’re grateful that Gov. Polis stood with the business community in vetoing HB 1008 to preserve jobs and protect Colorado’s economic climate.”



LOREN FURMAN
President & CEO
Statement on Veto of
HB 1008



By: Ed Sealover

Editor, The Sum & Substance
Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

There were significantly fewer bills this year attempting to overhaul labor and employment regulations compared to 2023, when the failed “Fair Workweek” bill saw unprecedented backlash from the Colorado business community. And with initiatives like paid family leave, mandated sick leave, and wage transparency just recently seeing full implementation across Colorado, business groups have been pleading with state leaders to show some restraint when it comes to proposals that create new regulatory costs for employers.

This session, legislators passed two labor-backed bills seeking to crack down on practices that they argued are depriving workers of their earnings and their rights. Employers fought both bills, saying that they missed the mark on solving the problems they were intended to address. And Governor Jared Polis agreed, vetoing both over specific provisions he found to be harmful.

House Bill 1008 was the latest effort to try to stop wage theft — this time by making general contractors on construction projects jointly liable with subcontractors for worker earnings and requiring that they pay laborers directly if subcontractors stiff them. Polis agreed with contractors’ groups and the Colorado Chamber stated that not only would this penalize general contractors who hadn’t done anything wrong but that it could perversely incentivize subcontractors to steal wages, knowing someone else would have to make workers whole.

“HB 1008 was extremely problematic for the business community and would have set a damaging precedent,” Colorado Chamber President and CEO Loren Furman said. “It would have shifted responsibility and put general contractors on the hook for the illegal actions of other business entities, which actually could have incentivized the very thing it was trying to prevent. Punishing good actors is not a solution to wage theft. We’re grateful that Gov. Polis stood with the business community in vetoing HB 1008 to preserve jobs and protect Colorado’s economic climate.”

CONTINUED

HB 1260 sought to ban the captive audience meetings in which employers rail against unions during organizing elections but its wording banning required meetings on any political or religious subject brought warnings of unintended consequences. Again, Polis agreed, saying that the “Worker Freedom Act” even could bar discussion of potential volunteer opportunities under its definition of political activities, and he said that making employers interpret what they could and couldn’t say was too tough a task.

Labor advocates and business leaders narrowed a wide-ranging bill to increase workers’ compensation benefits to one that boosts payment caps for the roughly 1% of employees whose benefits run out before they can get compensation for permanent injuries. The House also failed to pass a bill, HB 1015, to require employers to display suicide prevention posters and hand out materials on the subject to workers.

For the second year in a row, the Senate nixed a House-backed effort, HB 1014, to make it easier for Coloradans to file deceptive trade practices lawsuits that can generate attorney’s fees and treble damages that make the cases more attractive to trial lawyers. One key change, opposed by business and construction groups, would have dropped a requirement that plaintiffs prove significant public impact rather than just impact on them.

“Our key focus has been to bring attention to the financial impacts that overly complex regulations have on the statewide business community, and it’s clear that our message has been effective in our advocacy efforts this year. We’re grateful to the Governor’s Office and legislative leadership for working with us on major initiatives to boost our economy and for supporting the voices of business across the state.”



MEGHAN DOLLAR
SVP of Government
Affairs
Colorado Chamber
Press Release, May 2024

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Looking Ahead...



By: Meghan Dollar

Senior Vice President
Governmental Affairs & Political Operations



By: Cynthia Eveleth-Havens

Senior Vice President
Communications

With so much accomplished during the 2024 legislative session, the Colorado Chamber is looking ahead at building on the progress we've made for business.

One key priority currently in development for the 2025 legislative session is a comprehensive review of Colorado's regulatory climate. The state's growing regulatory burden continues to be the top concern among the business community at large and it's critical that our elected leaders understand the scope of the problem. That's why the Chamber has commissioned a full review and analysis of Colorado state-level regulations, led by a team of economists with extensive background in studying regulatory impacts.

This study will break down the effect of state regulations on various stakeholders in Colorado, including businesses, economic activities, taxpayers and our workforce. The report will also include specific policy recommendations to address the negative impacts identified. The report will be finalized by November 2024 and will be presented to key lawmakers ahead of the legislative session. The Colorado Chamber will include these findings in its legislative agenda as a top priority.

This regulatory review was a major strategic priority in the Colorado Chamber's 10-year strategic action plan, Vision 2033. The continued implementation of Vision 2033 will guide the Chamber's future policy priorities and strategic initiatives in the coming years.

In addition to addressing the state regulatory environment, another priority laid out in Vision 2033 is bolstering Colorado's workforce and talent pipeline. The implementation of the workforce development package passed this session will remain a focus of the Chamber's staff, specifically when it comes to launching regional summits across the state to address the unique talent needs of Colorado's local communities. The Chamber will also continue to explore innovative ways to implement the workforce goals created by the Education to Employment Alliance report.



DBJ Denver Business Journal
@denbizjournal

A 25-year veteran of regulatory policy and advocacy has been hired to push back against efforts the Colorado Chamber of Commerce says are hurting Colorado's businesses.



Colorado chamber makes hire in response to 'burdensome' regulatory cl...
bizjournals.com

CONTINUED



The Colorado Chamber's Roundtable for Environmental Sustainability and Climate Urgency (RESCU) will also continue its work throughout 2024 to identify actions that will help the state meet its emissions targets while preserving Colorado's economy. The group will advise lawmakers on policy changes similar to what was accomplished in the 2024 session to bolster the state's carbon capture and underground storage initiatives.

With 2024 being an election year, Colorado could also experience political shifts this November. The Chamber's political action committee is actively engaged in both the primary and general election seasons in order to elect pro-business candidates from both parties to the state legislature. The organization's primary endorsements were announced in May, and endorsements for the General Election will come later this summer after an extensive candidate interview process.



The Chamber will also be monitoring 2024 ballot initiatives as we approach November. While many pending measures were withdrawn due to legislative compromise, potential propositions on tax structures and electoral system reforms could still be headed for the ballot.

GETTING RESULTS FOR BUSINESS

The Chamber's 2024 Legislative Agenda: Progress and Status on Key Issues

Advancing the Chamber's Vision to Improve Colorado's Business Climate

In advance of the 2024 Legislative Session, the Colorado Chamber of Commerce released a set of legislative priorities to address the most important statewide issues facing Colorado employers. The Chamber's 2024 Legislative Agenda outlined both short-term and long-term goals that we believe will put Colorado in a position to tackle ever-evolving economic challenges now and into the future.

The Chamber's policy priorities were developed with direction from the organization's 10-year strategic action plan, Vision 2033, announced in October of last year. The plan outlines policy goals, focus areas, and priorities that will elevate Colorado as a top state for business. Below is an overview of the progress made on the Chamber's 2024 agenda.

"Our 2024 priorities are based on extensive research, data, and direct feedback from our many employers across the state that are invested in Colorado's success. We're pursuing proactive legislation on critical issues like workforce development, cost of living, and environmental goals. We will also continue to aggressively protect the statewide business community against bills creating new costs and inhibiting Colorado's competitiveness."



MEGHAN DOLLAR

SVP of Government Affairs
Discussing the Chamber's Legislative Agenda released in December 2023



Major Victories for Business

- ✓ **Do no harm: no new mandates and regulatory burdens on employers.** With the defeat of all eight bills on the Chamber's **Job Killers** list, significant new costly mandates on businesses were avoided.
- ✓ **Oppose the elimination of noneconomic damage caps in Colorado.** The Chamber and other business groups helped broker a major deal preventing the elimination of noneconomic damage caps through **HB 1472**.
- ✓ **Support employee autonomy in commuting to work.** Legislators attempted to revive previously-failed vehicle miles traveled mandates through **SB 165** and **HB 1366**, which were defeated.
- ✓ **Support innovative solutions using new technologies to meet climate goals.** The Chamber's environmental task force played a role in the passage of **HB 1346**, which will encourage new technology to remove carbon from the air.
- ✓ **Oppose efforts that limit the operations of the energy sector.** Major environmental bills were defeated this year – including **HB 1339**, **SB 159**, **SB 165**, and **SB 166** – and a compromise was reached to pause any new, similar bills through 2026.



Major Victories for Business CONTINUED

- ✓ **Avoid complex, costly new permitting schemes on manufacturing and industrial operations.** The Chamber helped defeat **HB 1330**, which would have added layers of new complex regulations on environmental and construction permits.
- ✓ **Support policies to increase housing in Colorado and promote innovative housing funding solutions.** A new pilot program created by **HB 1316** will support the development of new middle-income housing developments. **HB 1434** expands the affordable housing tax credit.
- ✓ **Identify long-term solutions to property tax structure.** The Chamber was instrumental in the passage of **SB 233**, which reduces total statewide property taxes by over \$1 billion.
- ✓ **Oppose tax hikes that increase the cost of doing business in Colorado.** Two major proposals that the Chamber played a role in defeating was **HB 1075**, which would have cost employers billions in new taxes, and **SB 33**, which would have quadrupled property taxes for short term rental owners.
- ✓ **Improve access and affordability of childcare.** Three new grant programs to ease the creation and development of child care facilities were created by **HB 1237**.
- ✓ **Promote flexibility, oppose new mandates on health care industries.** Two Chamber-opposed bills that would have created new mandates around fertility treatment and obesity medication, **HB 1025** and **SB 54**, were both defeated.
- ✓ **Support legislation to improve regional talent development goals and action plans.** The passage of **HB 1365** accomplishes this goal and was a major victory for the Chamber's Education to Employment Alliance.
- ✓ **Improve workforce data collection and transparency.** This was accomplished with the passage of **HB 1364** which requires the completion of a financial study on postsecondary and workforce readiness programs.
- ✓ **Streamline and incentivize employer participation in career connected learning opportunities.** **HB 1439** creates a new apprenticeship tax credit and a grant program connecting business with education institutions. **SB 143** enhances technical and skill certifications to allow them to become stackable credentials.
- ✓ **Support policies that ensure Colorado's technology sector continues to grow.** The quantum industry in Colorado will get a boost from incentives through **HB 1325**.



Significant Progress

- ✓ **Protect Colorado's current workers' compensation system and oppose changes that skyrocket costs to employers.** The Chamber amended **HB 1220** to significantly narrow proposed changes to the workers' compensation system, which prevented significant new costs to business.
- ✓ **Realign the pathways offered in schools with the needs of employers.** **HB 1365** and **SB 104** will both address this by better connecting business, education institutions, and governmental entities.
- ✓ **Ensure education providers are focused on the skills employers need.** **HB 1365** and **SB 104** will address this, but the Chamber's Education to Employment Alliance recommends additional policy goals to take this a step further in the future.



Mixed Bag

- ✓ **Develop regulatory roadmap for responsible deployment of artificial intelligence.** **SB 205** is a sweeping bill that regulates the development and deployment of artificial intelligence systems. Because much of the policy will be developed in the rulemaking process, its full impact on the tech industry in Colorado is unknown.
- ✓ **Promote safe online environment for children.** Companies that gather data from minors will be required to enhance their protections under **SB 41**.
- ✓ **Monitor new policies that address Colorado's DNC and TNC platforms.** New regulations on DNCs will take effect through **HB 1129**. The Chamber's member companies negotiated a deal on the bill, however its scope is still overly broad.

75

Total number of bills the Colorado Chamber took positions on in the 2024 Legislative Session

30

Total number of bills the Colorado Chamber took a "Support" position on

23

Total number of bills the Colorado Chamber took a "Opposed" position on

23

Chamber-supported bills that passed

19

Chamber-opposed bills that were defeated

7

Chamber-supported bills that were defeated

4

Chamber-opposed bills that passed

76%

Success rate for Chamber-supported bills

82%

Kill rate for Chamber-opposed bills



Unfinished Business

The Colorado Chamber had a remarkably successful legislative session and accomplished the vast majority of what is set out to do this year. In the 2025 legislative session, expect to see more proactive proposals pursued by the Chamber on regulatory reform, workforce, housing and more.



THE SUM & SUBSTANCE

What Matters to Colorado Business

In February 2023, the Colorado Chamber of Commerce launched **The Sum & Substance**, an online news publication by **Editor Ed Sealover** giving readers an insider's perspective on the politics and policies impacting Colorado's economic climate. TSS breaks down what matters to Colorado business, cutting through the noise to provide fact-based, engaging content Coloradans can trust. **Visit www.TSSColorado.com for more.**



110+

Stories covered during the 120 day 2024 legislative session



200,000+

Monthly website impressions during the session



37

Newsletters sent informing subscribers of legislative developments in 2024



“Thanks to The Sum & Substance, I have a better understanding of not only what’s currently happening in Colorado, but also what’s on the horizon. [It] reports the most relevant news in a thoughtful and timely manner, which makes it easier for me to stay on top of what I need to know.”

BEN METZGER, CANVAS CREDIT UNION



“One of the standout features of Sum & Substance is its ability to distill complex regulatory information into digestible and actionable insights. The platform goes beyond merely listing regulations; it provides a contextual understanding of their implications on our economy. This has been instrumental in helping our organization make informed decisions and adapt to the changing regulatory environment.”

CANDACE CARNAHAN, GRAND JUNCTION CHAMBER



“The Sum & Substance is a must-read for those interested in Colorado policy and in knowing how the business community and private sector can positively engage with the public sector... [It] offers insight into policy decisions at the capitol and offers a deeper understanding of the issues.”

CHRIS ROMER, VAIL VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

THE MOST EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM FOR COLORADO BUSINESS

The Colorado Chamber's Legislative and Policy Experts



Meghan Dollar

Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs & Political Operations



Christy Woodward

Regulatory Affairs Advisor



Peggy O'Keefe

Contract Lobbyist



Landon Gates

Contract Lobbyist



Larry Hudson

Contract Lobbyist
Co-Chair, Legal Reform Alliance



Kendra Beckwith

Co-Chair, Legal Reform Alliance



Guillermo Lambarri

Chair, Technology Alliance



Doug Benevento

Chair, Energy & Environment Council



Melissa Osse

Chair, Governmental Affairs Council



Phil Horwitz

Chair, Tax Council



Beverly Razon

Chair, Health Care Council



Stacy Campbell

Chair, Labor & Employment Council

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

By Meghan Dollar and Teresa Busk

The Colorado Chamber of Commerce has five policy councils and two alliances that routinely meet during the legislative session to discuss strategy and take positions on bills.

Policy councils and alliances are at the core of the Colorado Chamber's work, offering a unique opportunity for members to add their expertise and judgment to our policymaking and influence legislation and regulations that impact business.

Below is an analysis of every bill the Chamber's policy council and alliance experts took a position on in the 2024 session.



MEGHAN DOLLAR
SVP of Governmental Affairs
& Political Operations



TERESA BUSK
Communications & Advocacy
Manager

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL BILLS

HB 1030	Railroad Safety Requirements
Sponsors	Representative Mabrey; Senators Cutter & Exum
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 10, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill establishes new safety requirements on railroads operating in the state and creates the Office of Rail Safety and rail safety advisory committees.
- The Chamber opposed the bill due to unintended consequences on interstate commerce and the supply chain due to the extensive mandates on train operators in Colorado, and arguably violates federal law.



HB 1178	Local Government Authority to Regulate Pesticides
Sponsors	Representatives Kipp & Froelich; Senators Cutter & Jaquez Lewis
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have allowed local governments to regulate pesticides.
- The Chamber opposed the bill because it would have further created regulatory uncertainty for businesses in Colorado.

HB 1330	Air Quality Permitting
Sponsors	Representatives Bacon & Willford; Senator Cutter
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have required that operations at an oil and gas location be treated as one source in the construction permit application process, by “aggregating” emissions across the site and including pre-production emissions.
- It also would have created requirements for new minor sources within the nonattainment area.
- The Chamber was opposed to the bill because would have created Additional red tape on Colorado’s companies will lead to fewer jobs available in these industries and deter outside companies from wanting to building and operate in Colorado. The existing permitting system already impedes growth and Colorado’s competitiveness.



HB 1338	Cumulative Impacts & Environmental Justice
Sponsors	Representatives Rutinel & Velasco; Senator Michaelson Jenet
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 28, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill creates the Office of Environmental Justice, creates a rapid response team to respond to air quality complaints, and requires an assessment of refinery regulations.
- The Chamber had concerns with the local government provision of the bill because it could have led to businesses in different jurisdictions having to meet and follow different regulations. That section of the bill was amended out of the bill in the first House Committee.

HB 1339	Disproportionately Impact Community Air Pollution
Sponsors	Representatives Weissman & Rutinel; Senator Winter
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have changed the makeup of the Air Quality Control Commission and negated several multi-year rulemakings.
- Several rulemakings, including GEMM 2 and Reg 3, seek to achieve Colorado's GHG reduction goal while protecting Colorado businesses, jobs and the economy. The Chamber opposed HB 1339 because it would have to change those rules and threaten the existing production and growth of manufacturers in Colorado which will hurt workers.



HB 1346	Energy & Carbon Management Regulation
Sponsors	Representatives Titone & McCormick; Senators Hansen & Priola
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 21, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The law gives the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission the ability, pending U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval, to license and regulate wells in which carbon is pumped into underground pore space for permanent storage.
- The bill defines ownership of the pore space — granting it to the holder of the surface rights above it — and allow pooling orders when there is agreement from owners of 75% of the pore space. The bill also defines “cumulative impacts” of carbon capture and storage on a nearby area and requires officials to consider that when deciding whether to issue well permits.

HB 1357	Pipeline Safety
Sponsors	Representatives Story & Brown; Senator Priola
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have updated natural gas pipeline safety information collection and sharing, and updates how penalties are assessed for violations.
- The Chamber sought amendments to the bill because, as introduced, it raised implementation and compliance concerns without demonstrably benefiting public safety.



HB 1359	Public Notification of Hazardous Chemical Releases
Sponsors	Representatives Hamrick & Velasco; Senators Cutter & Jaquez Lewis
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have established notification procedures for hazardous chemical releases, created a committee and website to share public information, and established a penalty for violations of these notification requirements.
- The Chamber opposed the bill due to the difficulty of implementation and its overreaching nature.

HB 1366	Sustainable Local Government Community Planning
Sponsors	Representatives Froelich & Brown
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have required the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) to lead a study on local government green certification and sustainable community planning. That included vehicle miles traveled or programs encouraging employer commute programs.
- The Chamber has consistently opposed mandated vehicle miles traveled policies on employers, and that creating efforts to mandate how workers commute is overreaching, impractical, and inequitable. The Chamber was in an amend position on the bill to remove that language.



HB 1379	Regulate Dredge & Fill Activities in State Waters
Sponsors	Representatives McCluskie & McCormick; Senator Roberts
Position	Amend as introduced; Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 29, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill creates a dredge and fill permitting program in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. As introduced, the Chamber was in an amended position to work on changes to the legislation to make it implementable for businesses.
- Once key changes were adopted, the Chamber supported the legislation. Those key changes to the legislation include, but are not limited to:
 - Mandating that the Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) must issue a statewide permit for isolated ephemeral waters, wetlands, ponds and impoundments.
 - Creating a 2-year deadline for issuance of an individual permit.
 - The state is required to issue the Nationwide Permits as state general permits by the end of 2024.
 - Adding several exemptions.
 - Clarifying “grandfathering” of federal permits and approved jurisdictional determinations issued before the Sackett decision.

SB 81	Perfluoroalkyl & Polyfluoroalkyl Chemicals
Sponsors	Senator Cutter; Representatives Kipp & Rutinel
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 1, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill updates the Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAs) Chemicals Consumer Protection Act and other requirements enacted by House Bill 22-1345. Current law establishes a phase-out timeline for the sale of products that include added PFAS. The bill moves some phase-out deadlines forward and adds additional products to the phase-out, including certain outdoor wear, cookware, and artificial turf.
- The Chamber was opposed to the legislation because it initially had a provision to ban all PFAs. Though the chamber was not able to completely move from opposition, the bill was significantly amended and the ban on PFAs was removed.



SB 95	Air Quality Ozone Levels
Sponsors	Senator Kirkmeyer
Position	Support
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have addressed high ozone levels in the Front Range through a variety of mechanisms, including creating a voucher program, modifying an existing grant program, and requiring air quality studies.

SB 127	Regulate Dredged & Fill Material State Waters
Sponsors	Senator Kirkmeyer; Representative Bird
Position	Support
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill created the Stream and Wetlands Protection Act to address the regulatory gap created by the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency. It created a state framework and permit program for regulating discharges of dredged or fill material into state waters that were previously subject to federal regulation.



SB 150	Processing of Municipal Solid Waste
Sponsors	Senators Cutter & Michaelson Jenet; Representative Froelich
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Vetoed by the Governor on May 17, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The legislation placed broad prohibitions across a range of activities related to the conversion of waste to energy.
- The chamber was in an amend position because the bill was amended in the house to prohibit the use of tax credits for certain processes and had serious consequences for a wide range of industries utilizing aviation fuel and other materials covered by the bill, including the aviation and aerospace industries, advanced manufacturing, technology, bioscience, and more.

SB 159	Mod to Energy & Carbon Management Processes
Sponsors	Senators Jaquez Lewis & Priola; Representatives Boesenecker & Marvin
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have prohibited the issuance of new oil and gas permits after January 1, 2030. The phase out applied to both to new wells and to permits that will increase production by modifying old wells.
- The Chamber opposed the legislation as it would have been devastating to an industry that supports 300,000 jobs, \$48 Billion in GDP, and 7.7% of Colorado's economy.



SB 165	Air Quality Improvements
Sponsors	Senators Priola & Cutter; Representatives Rutinel & García
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have required pausing oil and gas pre-production activities during high ozone months in Colorado. It also codified the Governor’s NOx emission directive. The bill also required a rulemaking for emissions from indirect sources.
- The Chamber opposed the bill for several reasons including that a seasonal pause on oil and gas operations will not only directly jeopardize industry jobs, but the consequences extend far beyond the energy sector, targeting the hundreds of thousands of workers also employed indirectly by the industry and creating complex new regulations intentionally designed to slow growth.

SB 166	Air Quality Enforcement
Sponsors	Senator Winter; Representatives Froelich & Velasco
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have created a category of “repeat violator” for any polluter that violates Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) regulations five times over a three-year period and requires mandatory fines for subsequent violations by that repeat violator. It also added a requirement that the repeat violator must also affirmatively reduce emissions from its facility.
- The bill also created a right for the public to enforce APCD’s regulations against any polluter if the APCD is not pursuing enforcement; and increased the fines local governments can apply and exempts any fines collected by the state from the TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) cap.
- The Chamber opposed the legislation because it set up a system for companies to incur massive fines without any discretion for the Air Pollution Control Division. Additionally, that system would be impossible for companies to comply with.



SB 218	Modernize Energy Distribution Systems in Colorado
Sponsors	Senators Fenberg & Hansen; Representatives Duran & Brown
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 22, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill includes several policies, including grants for apprenticeship programs and building on existing requirements on certain investor-owned utilities. The goal is to provide resources to accelerate the deployment of electric infrastructure including those for electric vehicles and solar energy.

SB 229	Ozone Mitigation Measures
Sponsors	Senators Winter & Priola; Representatives Bacon & Willford
Position	Neutral
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 16, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill limits pollutant emissions from oil and gas operations, modifies how the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) enforce air quality requirements, requires CDPHE to publish additional enforcement reports, establishes community liaisons in the ECMC, and allows for the plugging of marginal oil and gas wells.
- While the bill does have requirements on oil and gas, the Chamber took a neutral position on this legislation as it was part of a greater compromise that led to the defeat of job-killing Chamber opposed legislation.



GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

COUNCIL BILLS

HB 1175	Local Governments Rights to Property for Affordable Housing
Sponsors	Representatives Boesenecker & Sirota; Senators Winter & Jaquez Lewis
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 30, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill grants a right of first refusal to local governments only in instances where complexes already are contractually obligated through public funding to limit rent prices. In those cases, owners must inform cities or counties two years before the rent restrictions expire and give the governments time to prepare offers before the properties hit the market.
- The bill also creates a new right of first offer through which owners must tell governments before they list for sale any property that is between 15 and 100 units and is at least 30 years old. Cities and counties then have seven days to request more information, 14 more days to make an offer, 30 extra days to negotiate final terms if the seller accepts the offer and 60 days to close on the complex.
- The Chamber opposed the bill because it could slow the turnover of units and could hurt housing supply in Colorado.

HB 1237	Programs for the Development of Child Care Facilities
Sponsors	Representatives Bradfield & Lukens; Senators Marchman & Rich
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 28, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill creates three programs in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for the development of childcare facilities. DOLA must create and implement the programs in collaboration with the Department of Early Childhood (CDEC). DOLA is required to report annually on programs to legislative committees until January 1, 2029. The bill also creates a cash fund and transfers money to the fund to support these programs.



HB 1316	Middle-Income Housing Tax Credit
Sponsors	Representatives Lindstedt & Lindsay; Senator Bridges
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 30, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill creates a pilot program for an income tax credit for qualified housing developments focused on rental housing for middle-income individuals and families.
- The bill builds on the previously successful work done by the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) in the Affordable Housing Tax Credit program and creates a pilot program that will generate housing opportunities for our workforce. CHFA has an already demonstrated record of increasing housing supply in Colorado which is a huge priority for the Chamber.

HB 1373	Alcohol Beverage Retail Licensees
Sponsors	Representatives Amabile & Ricks; Senators Roberts & Will
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have eliminated the liquor-licensed drugstore license and require all active liquor-licensed drugstore licenses to convert to a fermented malt beverage and wine retailer license. The bill also contained rules regarding how a retailer can sell and deliver products.
- The Chamber opposed the bill as it would unravel Proposition 125, an initiative passed by voters in 2022 and supported by the Colorado Chamber.



HB 1434	Expand Affordable Housing Tax Credit
Sponsors	Representatives Bird & Weinberg; Senators Zenzinger & Simpson
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 30, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill expands an existing program called the Affordable Housing Tax Credit facilitated by the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA). This program was originally established in 2001 and allows CHFA to allocate tax credits to support affordable housing development.
- The tax credits can be applied to either a taxpayer's state income tax or their insurance premiums tax liability. Through this program, CHFA has directly supported the development of more than 10,700 affordable rental units statewide since 2015. HB 1434 expands this program by investing additional funding into the program.

HB 1439	Financial Incentives Expand Apprenticeship Programs
Sponsors	Representative Willford & Weinberg; Senators Coleman & Baisley
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 10, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill creates a state income tax credit for a taxpayer operating in a new and emerging industry and who has registered an apprenticeship program and received a certificate from the State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA) in CDLE, or is an employer registered in the Colorado State Apprenticeship Resource Directory.
- The bill creates the Scale-Up Grant Program in CDLE to award funding to new or expanding registered apprenticeship programs through FY 2026-27.
- Finally, the bill creates the Qualified Apprenticeship Intermediary Grant Program in CDLE to award funding to qualified apprenticeship intermediaries that connect employers or apprenticeship program participants to registered apprenticeship programs or convene stakeholders to develop registered apprenticeship programs.



SB 033	Lodging Property Tax Treatment
Sponsors	Senator Hansen; Representative Weissman
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill establishes that a short-term rental unit that is leased for less than 30 consecutive days is not a primary residence and must be classified as either residential real property or lodging property.
- The Chamber opposed the bill due to the heavy property tax increases imposed on short term rental owners, which would have devastated small businesses and property owners in mountain resort communities.

SB 143	Credential Quality Apprenticeship Classification
Sponsors	Senators Coleman & Zenzinger; Representative Herod
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 10, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill requires that state agencies evaluate if non-degree credentials meet certain standards and applies an international classification system to credential pathways and apprenticeships. Specifically, the bill adds apprenticeship programs to the list of stackable credentials.



SB 181	Alcohol Impact & Recovery Enterprise
Sponsors	Senators Priola & Hansen; Representatives DeGruy Kennedy & Amabile
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill establishes the Colorado alcohol impact and recovery enterprise to levy fees on alcohol manufacturers and wholesalers for funding substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services statewide, with exemptions for small-scale producers.
- The Chamber opposed the bill due to the increased costs placed on businesses and the fees that would be borne by consumers.

SB 228	TABOR Refund Mechanisms
Sponsors	Senators Mullica & Lundeen; Representatives DeGruy Kennedy & Pugliese
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 14, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- Creates additional income tax reductions under the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) and adds a sales and use tax cut to the current TABOR refund mechanisms. Coloradans can expect to pay less in both income and sales taxes in years when state revenues are projected to exceed the TABOR cap.



SB 231	Alcohol Beverage Liquor Advisory Group Recommendations
Sponsors	Senators Rodriguez & Gardner; Representatives Snyder & Frizell
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 18, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill makes several changes to liquor licensing and regulation based on consensus recommendations from the Liquor Advisory Group within the Department of Revenue. The changes in the statute include, but are not limited to changes in licensing, requiring a feasibility study to create a portal for online liquor applications, regulations regarding tastings and classes, and allowing liquor sales on December 25.



HEALTH CARE COUNCIL BILLS

HB 1005	Health Insurers Contract with Qualified Providers
Sponsors	Representatives deGruy Kennedy & Ortiz; Senators Roberts & Fields
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- As introduced, the bill would have required a health care insurance carrier to include a primary care provider as a participating provider in all networks, including narrow networks and all tiers of tiered networks, of the carrier's health benefit plan if the primary care provider is. It was significantly amended to clarify what cannot be awarded as damages as a result of a breach of a physician employment agreement, with certain exceptions for those holding an interest in the practice.
- The Chamber opposed the bill due to the increased cost placed on businesses and the limited ability for carriers and primary care providers to negotiate contracts. Additionally, as amended it put significant restraints on hospitals.

HB 1025	Implement Fertility Coverage for Health Plans
Sponsors	Representative Froelich
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill intended to implement mandated coverage of fertility diagnosis and treatment and fertility preservation services to small plans.
- The Chamber opposed the bill due to the lack of actuarial analysis and the likelihood of increased costs imposed on employers.



HB 1075	Analysis of Universal Healthcare Payment System
Sponsors	Representatives McCormick & Boesenecker; Senators Marchman & Jaquez Lewis
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill required the Colorado school of public health to analyze draft model legislation for implementing a single-payer, nonprofit, publicly financed, and privately delivered universal healthcare payment system for Colorado that directly compensates providers. Additionally, it created a statewide health-care analysis collaborative to advise the study.
- The Chamber took an opposed position on the legislation because it is an unnecessary use of taxpayer dollars and risked a massive increase in costs on Colorado's already-strained healthcare system.

HB 1149	Prior Authorization Requirements Alternatives
Sponsors	Representatives Bird & Frizell; Senators Roberts & Kirkmeyer
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on June 3, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill requires carriers, private utilization review organizations, and PBMs for certain health-care services and prescription drug benefits covered under a health benefit plan to adopt a program, in consultation with participating providers, to eliminate or substantially modify prior authorization requirements in a manner that removes administrative burdens on qualified providers.
- The Chamber took an amend position to the bill to make improvements to the language, and better support the business community.



SB 54	Diabetes Prevention & Obesity Treatment Act
Sponsors	Senator Michaelson Jenet; Representatives Brown & Mabrey
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill required all private insurance companies to provide coverage for the treatment of the chronic disease of obesity and the treatment of pre-diabetes, including coverage for intensive behavioral or lifestyle therapy, bariatric surgery and FDA-approved anti-obesity medication.
- The bill mandated the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to secure federal authorization for treating chronic obesity and pre-diabetes, subsequently requiring written notification to Medicaid members upon obtaining such authorization.
- The Chamber opposed the bill due to the increased costs it would place on both the state and the healthcare system which would be passed down to employers and consumers.

SB 73	Maximum Number of Employees to Qualify as Small Employer
Sponsors	Senators Smallwood & Rodriguez; Representatives Velasco & Titone
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 1, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- Current law defines a small employer eligible for a small group health benefit plan as an individual, firm, corporation, partnership, or association that employs between one and 100 employees. The bill reduces the upper threshold to 50 employees on January 1, 2026.



LABOR & EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL BILLS

HB 1008	Wage Claims Construction Industry Contractors
Sponsors	Representatives Duran & Froelich; Senators Danielson & Jaquez Lewis
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Vetoed by the Governor on May 17, 2024

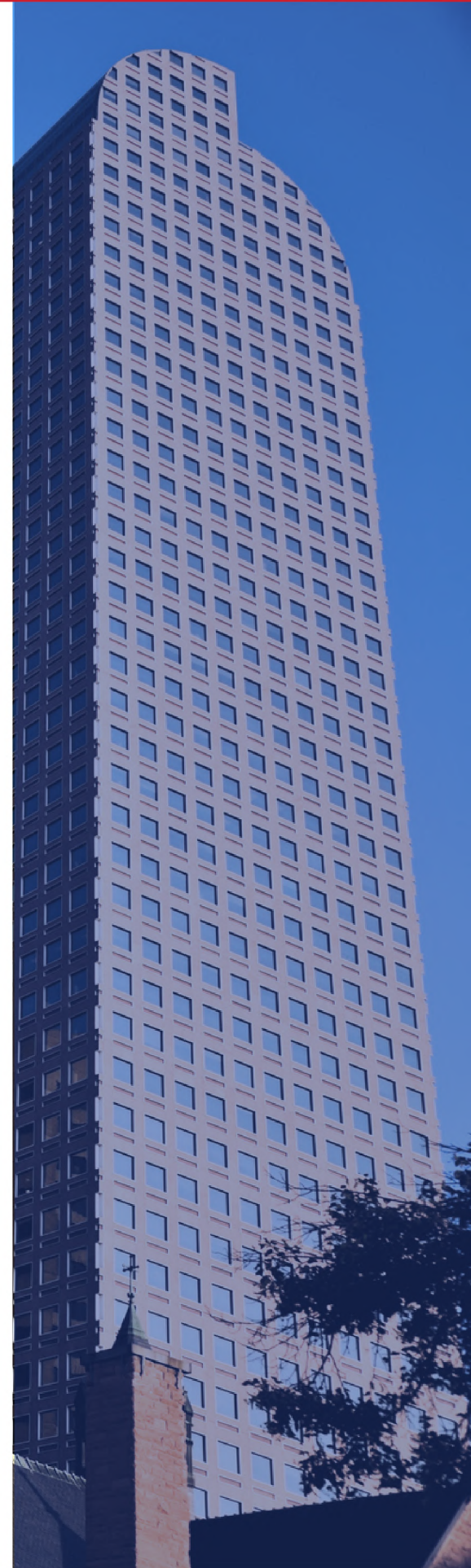
Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have addressed wage claims from individuals working in the construction industry. The bill required that a subcontractor that received a written demand for payment forward a copy of the written demand for payment to the general contractor within 3 business days after receipt. It also specified that a general contractor and a subcontractor that is a direct employer of an employee are jointly and severally liable for all debts owed and allow a general contractor to request certain information from each subcontractor.
- The Chamber opposed this legislation because the policy unfairly placed liability on good actors without making any progress to prohibit wage theft.

HB 1015	Workplace Suicide Prevention
Sponsors	Representative Vigil; Senator Michaelson Jenet
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill required the Division of Labor Standards and Statistics in the Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) to consult with the Office of Suicide Prevention in the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to create suicide prevention education posters and notices and make them available to employers.
- The Chamber was in an amend position on the bill in order to allow for electronic notice to employees.



HB 1095	Increasing Protections for Minor Workers
Sponsors	Representatives Lieder & Amabile; Senator Sullivan
Position	Monitor
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on June 4, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill increases the remedies and penalties for violations of the “Colorado Youth Employment Opportunity Act of 1971” and requires that fine revenue be deposited into the Wage Theft Enforcement Fund. Entities that violate the act must also pay specified damages to the aggrieved individual.
- The bill eliminates the current law penalizing a person with legal responsibility for a minor, who knowingly permits the minor to be employed in violation of the act. The bill also allows a reduction or elimination of fines if a minor worker intentionally misleads an employer about the minor’s age and the employer contacted a third party to attempt to verify the minor’s age.

HB 1124	Discrimination in Places of Public Accommodation
Sponsors	Representatives Soper & Mabrey; Senators Will & Gonzales
Position	Oppose as introduced; Monitor
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 22, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- As introduced, the bill made it a discriminatory practice for a place of public accommodation to deny services to persons based on their viewpoint. An exception was provided when a place of public accommodation restricts admission based on viewpoint if the restriction is based on a concern for safety or well-being. There were fines attached.
- The Chamber initially opposed the legislation based on additional legal liability for employers, however the bill was amended to clarify that nonprofit organizations renting space to political campaigns at their customary rates is not considered direct or indirect support of the political campaign.



HB 1132	Support for Living Organ Donors
Sponsors	Representatives Rutinel & Bradfield; Senator Buckner
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on June 3, 2024

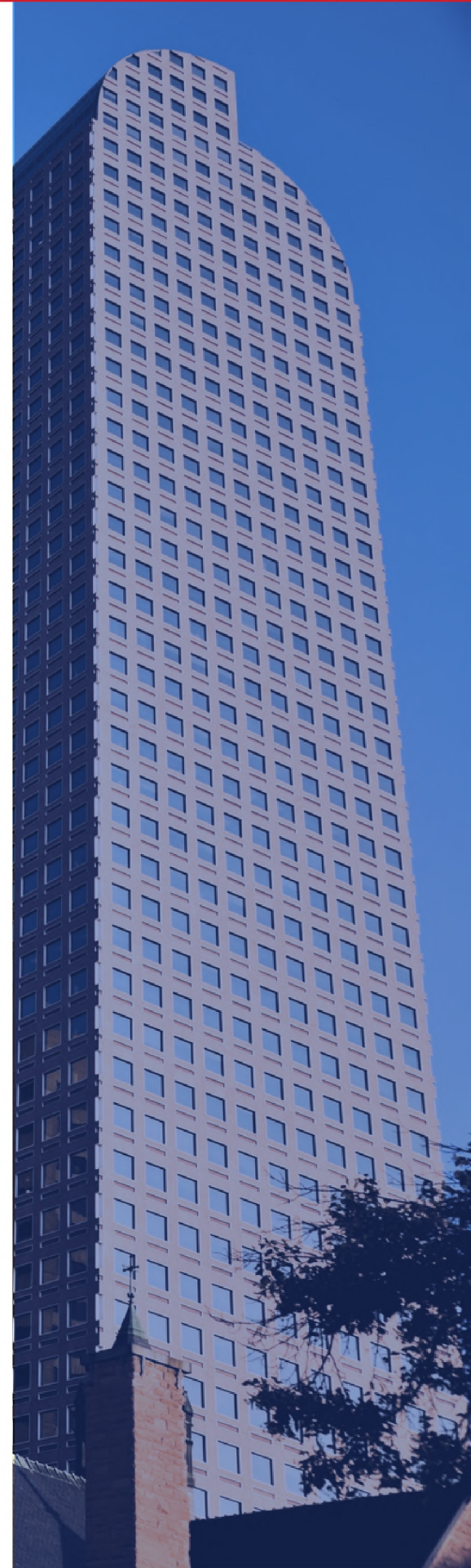
Chamber Analysis:

- The bill enacts several measures to support living organ donation, including a tax credit, a voucher requirement for transplant centers, and labor protections for living organ donors.
- The Chamber took an amend position to clarify in the bill that someone must exhaust their employer provided leave before the leave in the legislation can be used.

HB 1157	Employee-Owned Business Office & Income Tax Credit
Sponsors	Representatives Lindstedt & Vigil; Senator Bridges
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on June 4, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill codifies the Employee Ownership Office (office) within the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and creates a refundable state income tax credit for specified costs incurred by new employee-owned businesses.



HB 1260	Prohibition Against Employee Discipline
Sponsors	Representatives Duran & Hernández; Senator Danielson
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Vetoed by the Governor on May 17, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have prohibited an employer from threatening to subject an employee to discipline or discharge because of their refusal to attend an employer-sponsored meeting concerning religious or political matters, or for declining to listen to or view religious or political communications from the employer.
- The bill allowed an aggrieved person to seek relief for violations by filing a complaint with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) or with the courts; however, individuals must have exhausted all available administrative remedies and file a complaint with the CDLE within one year of an alleged violation before filing an action in district court.
- The Chamber opposed the legislation because it was ambiguous and further created a contentious legal landscape in Colorado.

HB 1324	Attorney General Restrictive Employment Agreements
Sponsors	Representative Clifford; Senator Liston
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 31, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill gives the Department of Law rulemaking authority over restrictive employment agreements and makes related changes in definitions to make the recovery of education and training expenses from an employee by an employer subject to existing consumer protection laws overseen by the department. Employers must comply with department rules to recover training or credentialing expenses previously provided to an employee.
- The bill also increases the penalty amount the department can recover when an employer attempts to enforce a covenant that is void under the law and makes any non-compete covenant restricting the right of persons to receive compensation for performance of labor for an employer a deceptive trade practice.
- The Chamber sought and received amendments to narrow the rulemaking authority of the Department of Law to transferability of the training or the credentialing the employee received.



HB 1364	Education-Based Workforce Readiness
Sponsors	Representatives McCluskie & Bacon; Senators Bridges & Lundeen
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 23, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill requires the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to complete a financial study and create the Colorado Statewide Longitudinal Data System in the Office of Information Technology (OIT). The system will identify ways to fill gaps in the education to employment pipeline.

HB 1365	Opportunity Now Grants & Tax Credits
Sponsors	Representatives Lukens & Soper; Senators Bridges & Will
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on June 7, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- Starting July 1, 2026, the bill created a dependent allowance for each The bill extends funding to the Regional Talent Development Initiative Grant Program, also known as Opportunity Now Colorado, to continue awarding grants to programs that connect Coloradans to in-demand, high-skill, and high-wage occupations.
- The bill also creates the Regional Talent Summit Grant Program in the Office of Economic Development and International Trade to convene regional talent summits across the state which was a priority for the Chamber.



SB 104	Career & Technical Education & Apprenticeships
Sponsors	Senator Danielson; Representative Hamrick
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 31, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill requires that the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), in coordination with the Career and Technical Education Division of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS), align the high school career and technical education (CTE) system and the registered apprenticeship system for programs related to infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, education, or health care. The Departments must also provide a report.



TAX COUNCIL BILLS

HB 1036	Adjusting Certain Tax Expenditures
Sponsors	Representatives Weissman & Frizell; Senators Hansen & Kolker
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on June 4, 2024

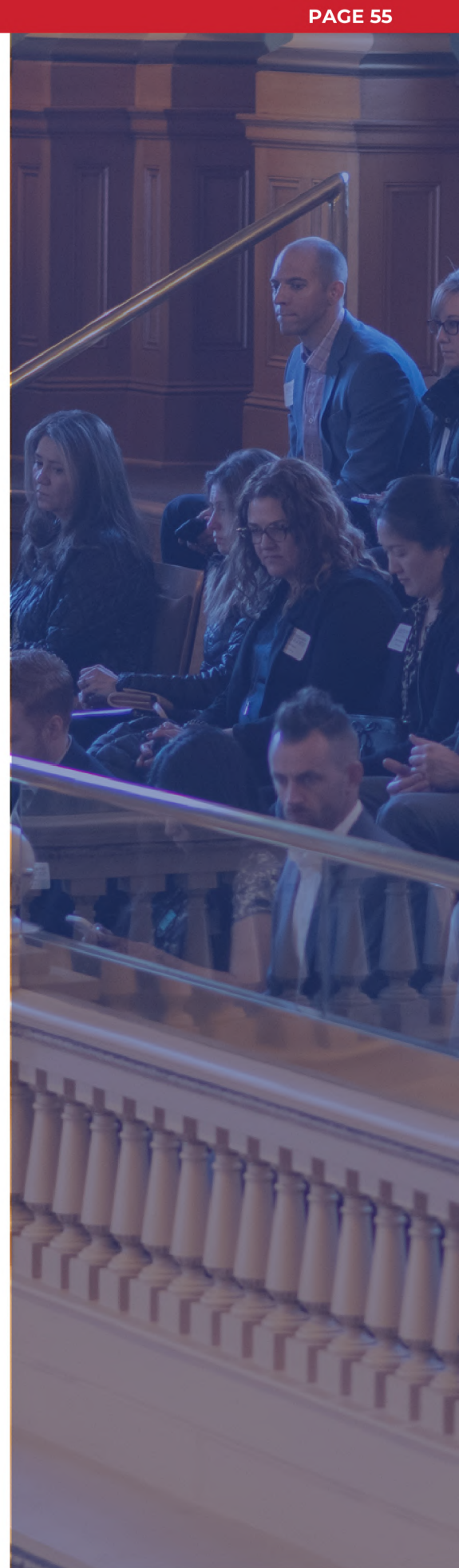
Chamber Analysis:

- The bill revises the state laws that govern state administration of local sales or use taxes. This included the ending of certain unused tax credits and expenditures.
- The Colorado Chamber took an amend position due to some concern surrounding certain tax expenditures that benefit the aviation industry being repealed.

HB 1041	Streamline Filing Certain Tax Returns
Sponsors	Representatives Kipp & Taggart; Senators Bridges & Van Winkle
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on April 4, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill modifies tax filing thresholds for sales and use taxes collected by jurisdictions that do not use the state sales and use tax simplification system (SUTS). Increases monthly filing threshold for state from \$300 to \$600 for monthly filings and allows the Department of Revenue to increase the threshold via rulemaking.



HB 1050	Simplify Processes for Certain Local Government Taxes
Sponsors	Representatives Kipp & Taggart; Senators Bridges & Van Winkle
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on June 4, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill expands the scope of the Sales and Use Tax Simplification Task Force to include local lodging tax. The bill also requires localities to report information related to lodging tax and building permits to the Department of Revenue and requires the Department of Revenue to issue a request for information for an electronic lodging tax system.

HB 1116	Extend Contaminated Land Income Tax Credit
Sponsors	Representatives Bird & Bradfield; Senators Kirkmeyer & Mullica
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on June 4, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill extends a tax credit for approved environmental remediation of contaminated property for an additional 5 years, making it available until 2029.



HB 1134	Adjustments to Tax Expenditure to Reduce Burden
Sponsors	Representatives Weissman & Rutinel; Senator Hinrichsen
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 14, 2024

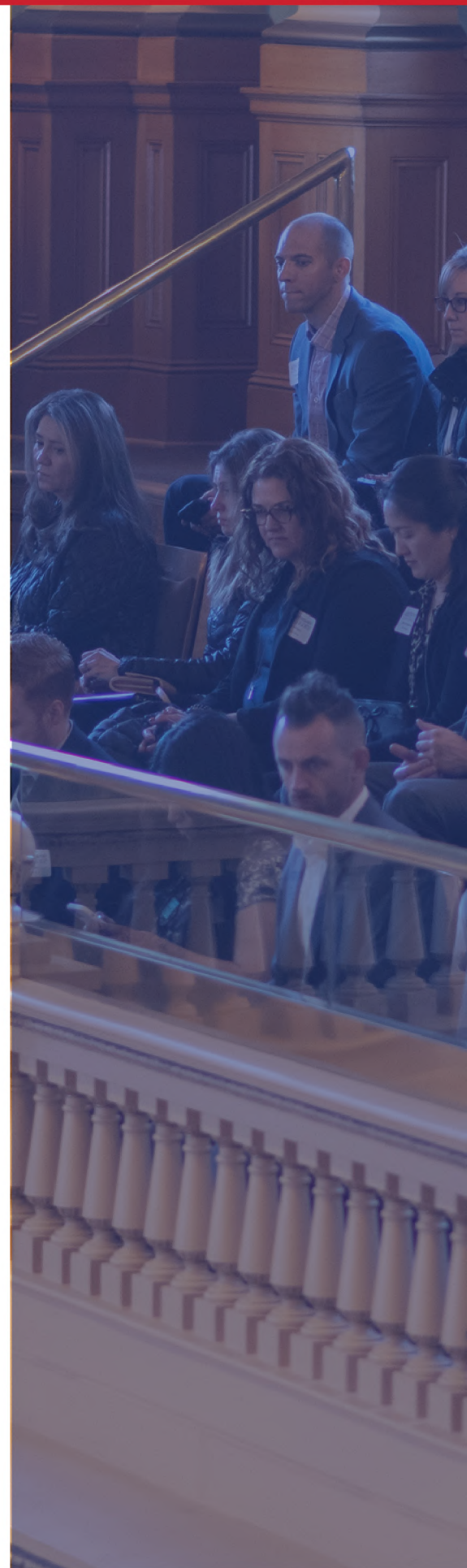
Chamber Analysis:

- The bill expands the state earned income tax credit, expands and modifies the state childcare expenses tax credit, and modifies requirements for corporations filing a combined tax return.
- The Chamber took an amend position to remove changes to how dividends are currently handled as well as extending the effective date of Section 5 of the bill.

SB 23	Hold Harmless for Error in GIS Database Data
Sponsors	Senators Van Winkle & Bridges; Representatives Kipp & Taggart
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on April 19, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill establishes that any vendor relying upon information in the Department of Revenue's geographic information system (GIS) database to determine which local tax jurisdictions are owed and by what amount is held harmless in an audit by the state or local taxing jurisdiction for an underpayment of tax, charge, or fee liability that results solely from an error or omission in the GIS database data.
- The taxpayer must reasonably demonstrate that underpayment was due to an error in the GIS database.



SB 24	Uniform Definition of Report for Lodging Taxes
Sponsors	Senators Van Winkle & Bridges; Representatives Kipp & Taggart
Position	Monitor as introduced; Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on April 19, 2024

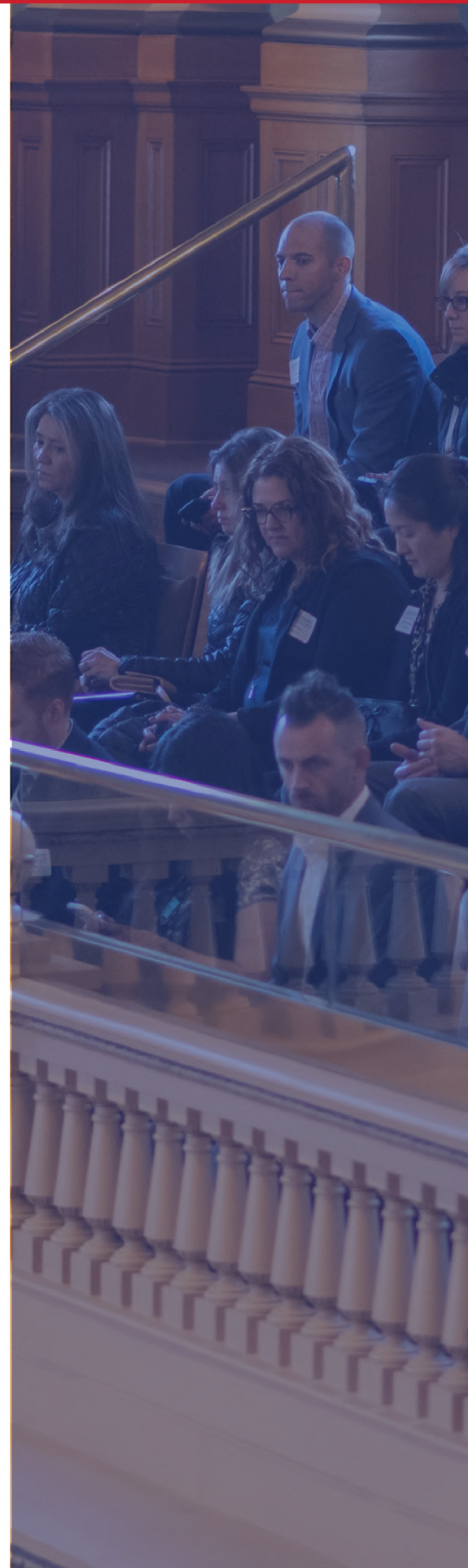
Chamber Analysis:

- The bill requires local taxing jurisdictions, including home rules, to apply the same standards to accommodations intermediaries as they do to marketplace facilitators. The Chamber changed its position on the bill from “monitor” to “support” after receiving feedback from members about the positive impact this bill will have on business.

SB 25	Update Local Government Sales and Use Tax Collection
Sponsors	Senators Van Winkle & Bridges; Representatives Kipp & Taggart
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 1, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill modernizes and revises the state laws that govern state administration of local sales or use taxes, including aligning the dispute resolution process for local sales and use tax administration with state sales tax administration, and establishes procedures for if a local tax collected by the department is erroneously remitted to the wrong taxing entity.
- The Chamber worked on amendments to clarify and balance the dispute resolution processes laid out in the legislation.



SB 85	Sales & Use Tax Rebate for Digital Assess Purchases
Sponsors	Senators Priola & Buckner; Representatives Parenti & Weinberg
Position	Support
Bill Status	Dead

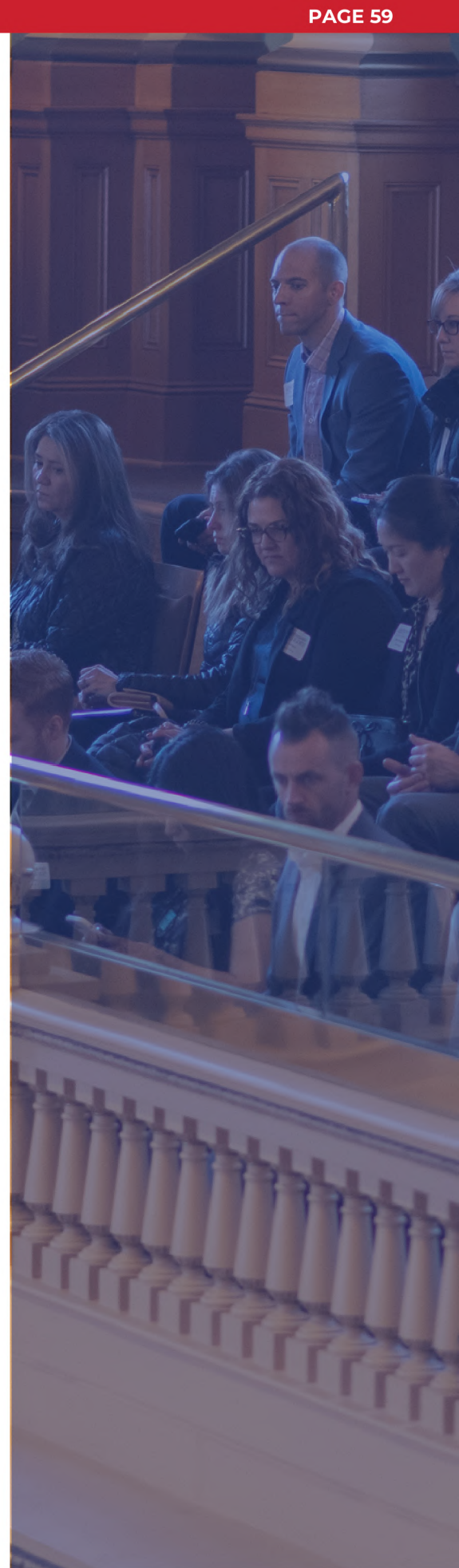
Chamber Analysis:

- The bill would have allowed taxpayers to claim a refund of state sales and use tax for purchases of construction materials or equipment in eligible data centers. Data center equipment includes computer equipment, software, servers, routers, connections, monitoring and security equipment, substations, generators, cabling, batteries, cooling equipment, water conservation systems, and other tangible and intangible personal property essential to the operations of the data center. The bill established what data centers would qualify for the refund.

SB 233	Property Tax
Sponsors	Senators Hansen & Kirkmeyer; Representatives deGruy Kennedy & Frizell
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 14, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill continues the reduction of the tax relief that homeowners (6.7%) and businesses (27.9%) received in 2023 based on the 2023 Special Session. The passage of the bill prevents a property tax increase in 2024.
- The bill also includes recommendations for tax years 2025 and beyond by reducing the combined effective tax rate for residential property tax from 6.7% down to 6.4% which includes the 10% homestead exemption for homes valued at \$700k or less. For homes valued above \$700k the effective tax rate reaches 6.46%. The non-residential tax rate will drop to 25% beginning in 2026.



LEGAL REFORM ALLIANCE BILLS

HB 1014	Deceptive Trade Practice Significant Impact Standard
Sponsors	Representatives Weissman & Mabrey; Senator Gonzales
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill removed the significant public impact element for establishing a claim under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act, simplifying the process for private individuals to pursue legal action against deceptive trade practices.
- The Colorado Chamber Legal Reform Alliance took an opposed position as they believe the bill is too broad and would encourage costly litigation.

HB 1083	Construction Professional Insurance Coverage Transparency
Sponsors	Representatives Willford & Brown; Senator Cutter
Position	Monitor
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill required the Division of Insurance to conduct a study of construction liability insurance for construction professionals in Colorado.



HB 1085	Limitation on Actions against Appraisers
Sponsors	Representatives Frizell & Amabile; Senator Gardner
Position	Support
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill required any legal action against an appraiser to be entered within five years of the appraisal report. If the cause of the action is discovered in the fifth year after the appraisal, legal action must be brought within two years.

HB 1220	Workers' Compensation Disability Benefits
Sponsors	Representative Daugherty; Senator Marchman
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on June 4, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- Currently, a claimant whose impairment rating is 19 percent or less may receive up to \$75,000 from combined temporary disability and permanent partial disability payments. A claimant with impairment greater than 19 percent may receive up to \$150,000. This bill increases the caps to \$185,000 and \$300,000, respectively.
- The bill also makes several changes related to benefits paid under workers' compensation including, allowing a claimant to refuse an offer of modified employment under certain circumstances, adding the ear to a list of body parts for which a claimant can receive permanent impairment benefits, and allowing a claimant to have benefits directly deposited into a bank account.
- The Chamber worked on amendments to the bill with the sponsors regarding the cap limit and the claimant's impairment rating.



HB 1230	Protections for Real Property Owners
Sponsors	Representatives Parenti & Bacon; Senators Winter & Cutter
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill modifies construction defect litigation standards and consumer protections for residential property owners.
- The Chamber opposed the bill because it would have increased construction defect litigation which is currently hurting the supply of homeownership opportunities.

HB 1472	Raise Damage Limit Tort Actions
Sponsors	Representatives Brown & Pugliese; Senators Mullica & Gardner
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on June 3, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill increases the total amount of damages for noneconomic loss or injury in non-medical malpractice cases to \$1.5 million and adjusts the cap by inflation every 2 years after starting in 2028.
- The bill allows siblings of a person whose death was caused by certain negligence to sue and recover damages if the deceased had no surviving spouse, heirs, or designated beneficiary, or if the deceased was unmarried without descendants, and had no mother or no father.
- The legislation sets a wrongful death cap for damages at \$2.125 million and sets the cap for noneconomic loss in and injury in wrongful death medical malpractice cases to \$550,000 in 2025, \$810,000 in 2026, \$1.065 million in 2027, \$1.320 million in 2028, \$1.575 million in 2029; and adjusted for inflation in 2030 and every two years after.
- The bill sets the cap for damages for course of care in medical malpractice cases to the greater of \$1.0 million present value patient or 125 percent of the noneconomic damages limitations effective at the time of the acts occurred present value per patient.
- Finally, the bill increases the cap of noneconomic loss or injury in medical malpractice cases to \$415,000 in 2025, \$530,000 in 2026, \$645,000 in 2027, \$760,000 in 2028, \$875,000 in 2029, and then adjusted for inflation in 2030 and every two years after.



SB 62	Prohibit Attorney Fees on Personal Injury Interest
Sponsors	Senator Gardner
Position	Support
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill prohibits a plaintiff's attorney from collecting contingency fees based on the amount of the judgment related to the accrual of the interest at 9% on damages.

SB 106	Right to Remedy Construction Defects
Sponsors	Senators Coleman & Zenzinger; Representative Bird
Position	Support
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill modifies requirements to initiate a construction defect action and clarifies the conditions under which a claim is settled and released under the Construction Defect Action Reform Act.



SB 130	Noneconomic Damages Cap Medical Malpractice Actions
Sponsors	Senators Mullica & Will; Representative K. Brown
Position	Support
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill incrementally increased the noneconomic damages limitation in medical malpractice from \$300,000 to \$500,000 over five years beginning January 1, 2025.



TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE BILLS

HB 1121	Consumer Right to Repair Digital Electronic Equipment
Sponsors	Representatives Titone & Woodrow; Senators Bridges & Hinrichsen
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 28, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill expands the current right to repair statute to digital electronic equipment and adds exemptions for various types of digital electronic equipment, including vessels, aviation, and motor vehicles; medical devices other than powered wheelchairs; safety communications equipment; fire alarm systems; and certain construction- and energy-related equipment.
- For digital electronic equipment manufactured and sold or used in the state after January 1, 2025, the manufacturer shall not use parts pairing to:
 - Prevent an independent repair provider or owner from installing or enabling an otherwise functional replacement part;
 - Reduce the functionality or performance of digital electronic equipment; or
 - Cause digital electronic equipment to display misleading alerts or warnings about unidentified parts
- The Chamber was in an amend position to expand the exemptions to the bill.

HB 1129	Protections for Delivery Network Company Drivers
Sponsors	Representatives Vigil & Mabrey; Senator Hinrichsen
Position	Oppose
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on June 4, 2023

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill imposes requirements on how a Delivery Network Company (DNC) may provide contracts to drivers and merchants. It also specifies how a DNC may deactivate a driver from the DNC's digital platform and requires that when a DNC connects a consumer to a driver, the DNC prompt the consumer to encourage the consumer to ensure driver safety upon arrival, including ensuring a clear, well-lit, safe delivery path and properly securing all pets.
- The Chamber is opposed to the bill due to its overreaching nature, possible impact on delivery times and the increase in cost for businesses.



HB 1130	Biometrics
Sponsors	Representatives Daugherty & Lynch; Senators Lundeen & Hansen
Position	Amend as introduced; Neutral
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 31, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill amends the Colorado Privacy Act to require protection and controllers for biometric data. As introduced, the Chamber had concerns that the bill could impact recent rulemaking on the Colorado Privacy Act.
- The Chamber worked with the bill sponsors on multiple amendments to ease implementation and unintended consequences for employers in Colorado.

HB 1151	Disclose Mandatory Fees in Advertisements
Sponsors	Representative Ricks; Senator Exum
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill prohibits advertising a price for a product, good or service unless the price advertised includes all mandatory or nondiscretionary fees. While the bill does provide certain exceptions, the Chamber was in an amend position to seek further exemptions.



HB 1325	Tax Credits for Quantum Industry Support
Sponsors	Representatives Valdez & Soper; Senators Bridges & Baisley
Position	Support
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 28, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill creates two tax incentives to support the development of the quantum technology ecosystem in the state. These incentives aim to foster greater access to capital for quantum businesses and establish a shared research facility for industry and higher education.

SB 41	Privacy Protections for Children's Online Data
Sponsors	Senators Rodriguez & Lundeen; Representatives Frizell and Mabrey
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 31, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill amends the Colorado Privacy Act to add enhanced protections when a minor's data is processed and there is a heightened risk of harm to the minor. The bill applies to any entity that controls consumer personal data and that conducts business in Colorado or delivers products or services that are targeted at Colorado residents, regardless of the volume of or amount of revenue derived from that activity.
- The Colorado Chamber took an amend position on the bill with the intent on clarifying and revising some of the language in the bill, specifically related to some of the definitions and exemptions.



SB 158	Social Media Protect Juvenile Disclosures Reports
Sponsors	Senators Hansen & Michaelson Jenet; Representative Lukens
Position	Amend as introduced; Oppose
Bill Status	Dead

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill establishes requirements for social media companies that have users in the state, including public disclosure of specific company policies, adoption of juvenile protection practices, enforcement of policy violations, and submission of an annual report to the Attorney General.
- The Chamber ultimately took an oppose position on the bill due to concerns surrounding the unintended consequences of the bill on businesses.

SB 205	Artificial Intelligence
Sponsors	Senator Rodriguez; Representatives Titone & Rutinel
Position	Amend
Bill Status	Signed by the Governor on May 17, 2024

Chamber Analysis:

- The bill establishes requirements for social media companies that have users in the state, including public disclosure of specific company policies, adoption of juvenile protection practices, enforcement of policy violations, and submission of an annual report to the Attorney General.
- The Chamber took an amend position on the legislation to amend the bill to a task force and to make significant clarifications.

