



Legislative Report 2021 Session | March 15, 2021

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Agriculture, Wildlife & Rural Affairs



Chair: Commissioner Tony Hass, Las Animas County
Vice Chair: Commissioner Terry Hofmeister, Phillips County
CCI Staff: Daphne Gervais

HB21-1045, Invasive Pest Control Administration

HB 1045 is a Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) bill that seeks to update the Pest Control Act to better align with legislation by the National Plant Board. The bill establishes a new cash fund for emergency pest control measures, funded by a portion of the unused funds from CDA's Plant Industry Division. The bill also authorizes CDA to recover costs from local governments, citizens, and businesses for services provided under the Act, contingent upon a local government voluntarily signing into agreement with CDA. Finally, HB 1045 allows CDA to implement a federally-recognized state-managed pest control program, which would justify federal inspectors at ports of entry to support the state's efforts in excluding pests.

CCI originally took a "Support with Amendments" position on HB 1045 to track the amendments that the Colorado Weed Management Association (CWMA) was seeking. Two amendments were adopted from CWMA recommendations that (1) reaffirm county authority to declare pests, and (2) update definitions to be consistent with the Noxious Weed Act. At the request of the sponsor, the amendment also creates reporting requirements to the SMART Act on the cash fund established in the bill. CWMA and CCI have since moved to support the bill.

HB 1045 passed the House, and now awaits a hearing in the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

Position: Support

Sponsor: Rep. Young & Valdez. A., Sen. Fields

HB21-1181, Agricultural Soil Health Program

HB 1181 creates a voluntary, incentive-based soil health program in the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA), to be administered by the commissioner of agriculture, the state agricultural commission, and CDA. The program authorizes CDA to establish (1) a state soil health inventory, (2) a system to monitor the environmental or economic benefits of soil health practices, (3) a soil health testing program, and other programs as deemed necessary by CDA. In establishing any inventory or system, CDA must provide an opportunity for public input. The bill authorizes the use of money from public and private sources, as well as gifts, grants, or donations. Program funds can be used to provide grants, loans, or other resources to perform soil health activities. The bill also creates an advisory committee appointed by the commissioner, representing different geographic areas, the political and demographic diversity of the state, and a diverse representation of agricultural producers. The committee makes recommendations to CDA and assists in the development and



evaluation of the program. Finally, the bill creates annual public reporting requirements for CDA on program activities.

During our steering committees on February 26th, CCI hosted Senator Simpson to learn more about this legislative proposal. Click [here](#) for part 1 of the recording (Senator Simpson's presentation starts at 4:16:15), and [here](#) for part 2 (just the first ~2 mins).

The bill will be heard in the House Agriculture, Livestock & Water Committee on Monday, March 22nd.

Position: Support

Sponsor: Rep. McCormick & Will, Sen. Simpson



General Government

Chair: Commissioner Hilary Cooper, San Miguel County

Vice Chair: Commissioner Scott James, Weld County

CCI Staff: Eric Bergman

HB21-1011, Multilingual Ballot Access for Voters

Currently under federal law, counties with 10,000 or more voting age citizens (or 5 percent of their total population) who do not speak English very well are required to prepare an in-person minority language ballot and make it available to those voters. There are currently four counties in Colorado that meet this federal standard: Conejos, Costilla, Denver and Saguache. HB 1011 would move this threshold down such that counties that have at least 2,000 citizens (or 2.5 percent of the total population) who speak a minority language would be required to prepare an in-person minority language ballot that would be available upon request at voting service centers. The bill does not provide any state financial assistance to counties to achieve this requirement. The bill would also require the Secretary of State (SOS) to 1) set-up a multilingual ballot hotline to help electors translate ballot language and 2) translate all state races and state ballot questions for the county clerks.

According to the County Clerks Association, the new threshold in the bill would place this unfunded mandate on approximately 20 counties. The affected counties include Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Pueblo, Weld, Alamosa, Bent, Crowley, Eagle, Fremont, Garfield, Lincoln, Montrose, Morgan, Phillips and Rio Grande. The fiscal note on the bill estimates that annual compliance with the mandates in the bill will cost \$46,000 for a small sized county, \$61,000 for a medium sized county and \$360,000 for a large county. While CCI supports ensuring access to the ballot for all citizens, the unfunded mandates in the bill are problematic. The bill passed the House State Affairs Committee last week on a 7-3 vote and now awaits a hearing in House Appropriations.

Position: Oppose Unless Amended

Sponsors: Rep. Caravao, Sens. Gonzales and Moreno

HB21-1025, Non-substantive Emails and Open Meetings Law

HB 1025 would exempt e-mails between county commissioners that concern scheduling and availability, forward information or concern responding to constituents from the requirements of Colorado's Open Meetings Law. The bill will be heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee on March 18.

Position: Support

Sponsors: Rep. Arndt, Sen. Ginal



HB21-1027, Alcohol Beverage Takeout and Delivery

As introduced, HB 1027 would allow restaurants to continue offering alcohol beverage takeout and delivery in perpetuity. While CCI is supportive of helping the restaurant and bar industry get back on its feet after the pandemic, there were concerns about continuing this practice in perpetuity. CCI voted to support the legislation but seek an amendment to sunset this practice after the state public health order is lifted. The bill ended up being amended in committee to put a five-year sunset on alcoholic beverage takeout. As amended, the bill passed House Business Affairs on a 13-0 vote and now awaits a hearing in House Finance.

Position: Support if Amended

Sponsors: Reps. Larson and Roberts, Sens. Bridges and Priola

HB21-1047, County Commissioner District Gerrymandering

HB 1047 would take the political gerrymandering protections established in the state constitution by Amendments Y and Z and attempt to apply them to county commissioner districts in those counties where at least one commissioner is not elected by the voters of the whole county. The gerrymandering elements of the bill would only be applicable to counties with populations greater than 70,000 that move to a five-member commission or ones that have a home rule charter. Of the five counties that could be affected, only three counties have commissioner districts where only the residents of the district vote for a commissioner from that district: Arapahoe, El Paso and Weld.

The bill also contains language that applies to **all** county redistricting activities. Currently, state statute says that county commissioner districts shall be “as nearly equal in population as possible” (CRS 30-10-306). The phrase “nearly equal” is not defined in the statute. HB 1047 provides additional clarification, setting forth that the population of each commissioner district not deviate by more than five percent at the time the commissioner district boundaries are adopted.

The bill was amended significantly in committee at the request of the affected counties. A number of provisions, including required judicial review of commissioner districts, were removed from the bill. As amended, the legislation now provides a series of criteria that are to be followed as closely as practicable during redistricting. The criteria include preserving communities of interest and political subdivisions (such as cities and towns) and creating districts that are as compact and as politically competitive as possible. CCI thanks the sponsor, Rep. Chris Kennedy, for his willingness to listen to county concerns and working to address those concerns. The bill is expected to be heard on the House floor this week.

Please note that there is also continuing conversation with the bill sponsor on whether to make HB 1047 the vehicle to legislatively address anticipated problems with meeting the September 30 statutory deadline for redistricting. The Census Bureau announced in January that the release of the



new population numbers that counties depend on to do redistricting will be delayed by at least five months.

Position: Monitor as Amended
Sponsors: Rep. Kennedy

HB21-1100, Electronic Filing of Documents with Governmental Entities

HB 1100 would require all governmental entities (including counties) to establish by 2022 an electronic filing option for each document capable of electronic delivery. The bill hopes to build on social distancing policies already enacted due to the COVID pandemic. This filing option can include the scanning and transmitting of a document by e-mail. The governmental entity must also protect personal identifying information in any submitted electronic filing. While CCI supports the intent of the bill and greater efficiency in the provision of county services, there is a great deal of uncertainty about the ability to accept electronic signatures, whether some smaller counties would have the ability to accept extremely large files (such as land use plats) electronically and whether encryption software would be required to protect the transmission of sensitive personal data (such as social security numbers). CCI has talked to the sponsor about these concerns, and he is willing to turn the bill into a study so that county IT staff may work with the state agencies and the sponsors over the summer on these and other highlighted issues. CCI appreciates the sponsor's willingness to work with counties on their concerns. HB 1100 will be heard in the House Finance Committee on March 18.

Position: Oppose Unless Amended
Sponsors: Rep. Soper, Sen. Bridges

HB21-1110, Colorado Laws for Persons with Disabilities

HB 1110 attempts to codify federal discrimination protections for persons with disabilities in Colorado state statute. The bill specifically requires that county websites comply with the most recent web content accessibility guidelines promulgated by international web accessibility initiatives.

CCI supports the intent of the bill and has asked the sponsor for an amendment to delay implementation of these requirements to give smaller counties time to research and budget for any necessary website upgrades or software purchases. The sponsor has agreed to amend the bill to push the implementation deadline out to 2024 and the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) and Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) will be looked to for technical and financial assistance. The bill is scheduled to be heard in the House Judiciary Committee on March 17.

Position: Monitor if Amended
Sponsors: Rep. Ortiz



SB21-070, County Authority to Register Businesses

SB 70 would authorize counties to institute a registration program for all businesses in the unincorporated area of the county. As amended in the Senate, the bill limits the use of any data collected on businesses and there is no penalty or fine for failure to register with the county. The bill will be heard in the House Transportation and Local Government Committee on March 23.

Position: Support

Sponsors: Sen. Moreno, Rep. Bird

SB21-088, Child Sexual Abuse Accountability Act

SB 88 would create a new civil right allowing persons who were victims of sexual misconduct that occurred when they were minors to sue their abusers. If that sexual misconduct occurred at a youth organization, the victim may also bring a civil claim against the managing organization (such as a school, park and recreation district, municipality or county) if they can show the managing organization knew or should have known that the participants in the youth program in question were at risk from an employee. CCI and other local governmental associations have raised concerns over this language as it overrides the current legal standard in the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act (CGIA). Concerns have also been raised about local governments being held accountable for the actions of volunteers within these youth programs. The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee last week on a 4-1 vote and is now awaiting a hearing in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Oppose Unless Amended

Sponsors: Sen. Danielson, Reps. Michaelson Jenet and Soper

SB21-176, Protecting Opportunities and Workers' Rights (POWR) Act

SB 176 is intended to modernize anti-discrimination laws and expand access to justice for Colorado workers. While the legislation is well-intended, county attorneys have raised concerns that certain provisions in the bill will make settling discrimination cases much more difficult. The bill also allows a claimant to bypass administrative remedies and go straight to court, which could encourage more claims. The bill also expands the definition of a "hostile work environment" and allows employers to be sued for the conduct of independent contractors. These changes to current law will expand employer liability and could result in increased county insurance costs. The bill will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 25.

Position: Oppose Unless Amended

Sponsors: Sens. Pettersen and Winter, Reps. Gray and Lontine



Health & Human Services

Chair: Commissioner Wendy Buxton-Andrade, Prowers County

Vice Chair: Commissioner Sue Hansen, Montrose County

CCI Staff: Gini Pingent / Kyley Burress

HB21-1018, Adoptive Parents Payments to Outside Providers

HB 1018 allows foster parents to pay for services (that are covered by Medicaid) from providers that do not accept Medicaid. There are instances when a foster parent can financially pay out of pocket for services that a foster child/youth might need. An example might be sexual abuse treatment and/or a super specialized service that is offered at a local provider who does not accept Medicaid.

CCI secured the amendments needed to clarify that if adoptive parents do pay for these sorts of services out-of-pocket, they could not later request reimbursement from the county or cite it as a 'changed circumstance' to justify a higher monthly adoption subsidy.

CCI appreciates Rep. Bennett's diligence in working through this policy with counties. HB 1018 is waiting to be heard in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Position: Support

Sponsors: Rep. Bennett & Van Beber, Sen. Jaquez Lewis

Staff: Gini Pingent

HB21-1030, Expanding Peace Officers Mental Health Grant Program

With the support of 22 representatives and 11 senators, HB 1030 builds upon an existing \$2.0 million grant program administered by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. The Peace Officers Mental Health Support And Community Partnerships Grant program was first formed in 2017 to provide direct services to peace officers (i.e. mental health counseling, training to prevent and treat mental trauma, etc.) and support what is commonly referred to as 'co-responder' programs. HB 1030 continues the original purpose of the grant program while also 1.) expanding the type of agencies that can apply for the grant dollars; 2.) modifying the grant program's name and 3.) removing the repeal date. In addition – but separately from this bill, CCI also understand that legislators will attempt to secure additional state general funds for this grant program through the budget process.

Counties are strong supporters of the co-responder model. These programs typically, but not always, pair peace officers with a behavioral health provider to respond to calls for services. Roughly 30 communities around the state have these programs and have found them to be successful at de-escalating calls that come in through the 911 system and keeping those with behavioral health and/or substance use issues out of the criminal justice system. A recent study by the Colorado



Health Institute provides a nice overview of these programs, their effectiveness and areas for continual growth and improvement – click [here](#) to learn more.

Working in close partnership with the Fraternal Order of Police, HB 1030 is one of CCI's 8 legislative priorities. CCI was represented at the committee hearing by San Miguel County Commissioner Hilary Cooper and Summit County Commissioner Tamara Pogue. After a lot of negotiation with interested parties, the bill unanimously passed out of committee. Key amendments included the addition of behavioral health entities, county or district public health agencies, community-based social service and behavioral health providers as eligible entities that can apply for the funding but still must work in partnership with a law enforcement or public safety agency.

HB21-1030 now awaits a hearing before the House Appropriations Committee.

Position: Support

Sponsors: Rep. McCluskie & McKean, Sen. Buckner & Cooke

Staff: Gini Pingenot

[HB21-1072](#), Equal Access Service for Out of Home Placements

HB 1072 aims to ensure that all children and youth in out of home placements (think foster homes, congregate care settings, etc.) are accommodated for their identity and that providers do not discriminate.

CCI secured amendments to ensure that the health and well-being of the child will always remain paramount. Originally, the bill stated that counties cannot delay or deny placement of a child or youth for adoption. County human service experts flagged that there could be instances when a placement with an eligible family is not in the best interest of the child. An example might be when a child expresses the desire to be placed in a home with a father and the only available home consists of a single mother. As written, the language suggested that if there was an open placement, counties had to place the child, regardless of whether or not it's a good fit for the child. This issue has been addressed.

Additionally, the bill originally stated that people who wish to be adoptive or foster parents cannot be denied the opportunity to do so. Again, there are instances – such as an individual with a disability that makes them incapable of safely parenting a specific child and/or individuals who may follow a religion that includes practices that are considered to be abusive in mainstream culture that would need to be handled on a case by case basis. This issue has also been addressed.

CCI appreciates Rep. Froelich and One Colorado's leadership on HB 1072. With the amendments that have been adopted the intent of HB 1072 - protecting children and youth from discrimination - has been honored while ensuring the child's safety.



HB21-1072 is waiting for second reading in the house.

Position: Support
Sponsors: Rep. Froelich, Sen. Fields & Jaquez Lewis
Staff: Gini Pingenot

HB21-1085, Secure Transportation Behavioral Health Crisis

HB 1085 creates a new type of secure transportation option, different than traditional ambulance services, for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis. This is an optional, new business opportunity for ambulance agencies, law enforcement and emergency service providers. The licensing and permitting authority for this new service will reside with the board of county commissioners. Commissioners can establish a fee to reflect the direct and indirect costs incurred by the county in licensing such service. Entities that wish to provide this service must meet – or exceed - the equipment and training and operating procedures established by the State Board of Health.

CCI proudly supported last year's bill (HB20-1284) that would have accomplished the same thing. Last year's bill was postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19. HB21-1085 is waiting to be heard in the House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services Committee.

Position: Support
Sponsors: Reps. McCluskie & Larson, Sens. Bridges & Smallwood
Lobbyist: Gini Pingenot

HB21-1096, Foster Parents Bill of Rights

HB 1096 creates certain rights for foster parents. Rep. Van Beber, a former foster parent herself, is seeking to ensure that foster parents have the information and supports they need to meet the needs of children in their care.

CCI understands that Rep. Van Beber will ask for her bill to be postponed indefinitely at Tuesday's hearing. She has expressed an interest in working with stakeholders over the interim and bringing a revised bill forward in 2022.

Position: Monitor with Amendments
Sponsors: Rep. Van Beber
Lobbyist: Gini Pingenot



HB21-1099, Policies and Procedures to Identify Domestic Abuse

As introduced, HB 1099, a CCI initiated bill, would have added the exposure to ‘domestic abuse’ to the definition of child abuse and neglect.

Over the years, the child welfare fatality review team (CFRT) has observed an increasing number of egregious, near fatal and fatal cases in which domestic abuse is present and the corresponding emotional and psychological impact this adult behavior has on children. Out of the 232 Incidents reviewed by CFRT in CYs 2014-2019, domestic abuse was a stressor identified 94 times (232/94: 40.5%).

Currently, child welfare caseworkers classify these situations under the catchall of ‘injurious environment’. In the absence of a specific definition for domestic abuse in the children’s code, mandatory reporters and case workers lack clear and intentional direction to watch for the effects of this adult behavior on a child’s wellbeing.

CCI will be bringing forward amendments in the first hearing that will:

- 1.) Recognize of the disproportionate number of low income families and children of color in the child welfare system and the need for continued improvement in diversity training and practices for our child welfare workers
- 2.) Remove the definition and task existing stakeholder groups to develop a definition of domestic violence to include in Title 19
- 3.) Emphasize the need for diversity/cultural focus and the role of the non-abusive & abusive parent in training & practices

We are striving to protect the safety of vulnerable children while ensuring that we are not creating a situation whereby the perpetrator of domestic abuse has another tool to use against their victim. HB 1099 will be heard in the House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services Committee on Tuesday, March 16th.

Position: CCI Bill - Support

Sponsors: Rep. Michaelson Jenet & Ransom, Sen. Zenzinger & Smallwood

Staff: Gini Pingenot



HB21-1115, Board of Health Member Requirements

CCI received and shared a strike below amendment with all county commissioners a couple of weeks ago. The amendment does the following:

- 1.) Prohibits a board of county commissioners from serving as a board of health
- 2.) Allows counties of under 10,000 to have a board of health of 3 members
 - a. **RELATED** – CRS 25-1-508 (2)(b) – which is not included in the amendment because it is not being changed – **would still NOT ALLOW a county of under 10,000 to appoint their BOCC as their BOH.** They could only have one commissioner serve.

CRS 25-1-508 (2)(b) - “Each member of the county board of health shall be a resident of the county in which the county agency is located. Appointments shall be made to the board so that no business or professional group or governmental entity shall constitute a majority of the board. Any vacancy on the board shall be filled in the same manner as full-term appointments by the appointment of a qualified person for the unexpired term”

- 4.) Counties of more than 10,000 would have to appoint a BOH with at least 5 members and the provision pasted above (CRS 25-1-508 (2)(b) would apply too (so, if you had a board of just 5 members, you could appoint 2 commissioners and the other 3 members would have to come from business/professional groups)
- 5.) A training requirement has been added

Apart from the training requirement, commissioners remain opposed to the bill. They have expressed the following concerns with HB 1115:

- Public Health Touches on All Aspects of the County. From land use planning to operating jails and providing public benefits, public health considerations is THE common thread that runs throughout county services. Disconnecting county commissioners from the public health considerations they must bring to every aspect of their job will create a silo effect that works against critical public health outcomes for communities.
- Balancing a broad spectrum of community impacts. Commissioners are well-suited for the challenge of listening to and balancing disparate viewpoints in their communities. The pandemic obviously has public health impacts but is also taking a toll on the economic livelihood of Coloradoans in disproportionate ways. Commissioners – through their positions – have been able to convene the community to help identify solutions & innovative approaches.
- Direct connection to supports. Having commissioners serve as the BOH creates a direct feedback loop between public health and county leaders. This creates efficiency and elevates the financial and workforce needs of public health.



- Local flexibility. Current statute already allows counties – of all sizes - to appoint a BOH consisting of community members, a BOH consisting of community members & commissioners, etc.
- Accountability. Commissioners are elected officials working for their communities. Having the BOH consist of elected county commissioners gives the public a vehicle to express (and act on) their discontent with decisions that are made.
- Lack of Volunteers. Small/Medium sized counties struggle to find willing volunteers. Navigating the complexities of the pandemic and the ‘big picture’ understanding and strategy that is required when it comes to the county’s budget, public interaction, direction to departments and the economy is a task few volunteers are willing to assume.

Position: Oppose

Sponsors: Rep. Kipp & Mullica, Sen. Ginal & Priola

Staff: Gini Pingnot

HB21-1097, Establish Behavioral Health Administration

HB 1097 addresses multiple recommendations from the Colorado Behavioral Health Task Force. Specifically, the bill requires the Colorado Department of Human Services to develop a plan for the creation of the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) and to establish the BHA with specified duties by July 1, 2022.

HB 1097 will be heard in the House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services Committee on Tuesday, March 9th. CCI thanks San Miguel County Commissioner Hilary Cooper and Douglas County Deputy County Manager Barbara Drake for their testimony in support of HB 1097. HB 1097 will be heard on third reading on Monday, March 15th.

Position: Support

Sponsors: Rep. Young & Pelton, Sen. Fields

Staff: Gini Pingnot

SB21-014, Allocation Formula Colorado Child Care Program

SB 14 makes a couple of modifications to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Currently, the roughly \$80 million in available CCAP funding is distributed based on a formula that considers the number of children eligible to participate in CCAP multiplied by the provider reimbursement rate. CCI has worked with Sen. Kirkmeyer and human service directors on an amendment that allows the CCAP allocation committee to consider including a ‘utilization factor’. Doing so would help capture nuances around the state such as availability of quality child care, cultural factors that may encourage or discourage a parent’s decision to allow others to watch their children, the



availability of employment or employment-related activities in the county which would necessitate reliance on child care assistance, etc.

The bill will also allow counties to adjust their own minimum eligibility level above 185% of poverty. Currently, twenty-two counties have a minimum eligibility above 185% and the Colorado Department of Human Services must authorize that.

The Colorado Department of Human Services continues to work with Sen. Kirkmeyer on some fine-tuning amendments. Once those are ironed out, the bill will be heard on Tuesday, March 9th in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. CCI thanks Prowers County Commissioner Wendy Buxton-Andrade for testifying in support of SB21-014.

Position: Support

Sponsors: Sen. Kirkmeyer

Staff: Gini Pingnot

SB21-118, Alternative Response Mistreatment At-risk Adults

SB 118 is a CCI initiated bill. SB 118 creates a pilot program that allows some county APS programs to adopt an alternative approach to low risk cases, like reports of burnt pancakes and a client's home condition. APS can still revert to a traditional approach, if upon assessment, a finding of abuse and neglect and an unannounced appearance is warranted.

APS receives a wide variety of reports that span a spectrum of low to high risk cases. Examples of low risk cases include self-neglect, clients found wandering from home and clients with minor bruises or injuries. Examples of high risk cases include sexual abuse, severe injury and confinement.

All cases, regardless of risk level, are handled in the same manner. They are:

- 1.) reviewed by trained staff;
- 2.) tracked and logged into APS' computer system;
- 3.) investigated which includes an unannounced home visit; and
- 4.) determined with a finding (i.e. who is responsible for the alleged mistreatment).

In an **alternative response** approach steps 3 & 4 from above are different as follows:

- 1.) an unannounced visit is optional; and
- 2.) there is no finding of mistreatment

Many county departments of human services have successfully used a similar, tailored response in their child welfare programs for many years. This friendlier approach to low-risk child welfare cases engenders a sense of partnership between the family and county workers and has helped restore families that were in need of supports. The success counties have had in the child welfare arena informs and motivates the request for a tailored approach in APS.



SB 118 will be heard in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on Monday, March 15th. Larimer County Commissioner John Kefalas will represent CCI's support at the hearing.

Position: CCI Bill - Support
Sponsors: Sen. Ginal & Gardner, Rep. Snyder & Pelton
Staff: Gini Pingnot

SB 21-071 Limit the Detention of Juveniles

This bill's main objective is to cap the number of juvenile detention beds being used in the State from 327 to 188. The reasoning behind the 188 cap is that is the number juvenile detention centers are currently sitting at. Division of Youth Services (DYS) will be tasked with capping beds by January 2022. The bill prohibits the use of money and property on a bond for charged juveniles.

Originally, we voted to oppose the bill unless amended. The two amendments counties wanted to see were an increase in the bed cap number from 188 and a study that looked at the services and placement options in each county and judicial district for this population. The bill sponsors and the ACLU were receptive to this request and adopted an amendment that capped beds at 215 and adopted an additional amendment that included the study. To see the 'study' amendment click [here](#) and to see the amendment on the bed cap number change click [here](#).

The bill was in committee on Thursday, March 11th, click [here](#) to see the written testimony CCI submitted.

Position: Support
Sponsors: Sen. Buckner
Lobbyist: Kyley Burress

SB21-117 Foster Care Student Services Coordination

This bill updates the foster care transportation law from 2018, which came from CDHS after a study showed that once a foster kid changes school district three or more times, only a small percentage graduate, while the majority drop out. A vast majority of this population moves between adjacent counties, for example Jefferson and Denver, so keeping them in the same school when placements switch is vital to their ongoing success.

In meetings with fostering Colorado, counties, and human service directors, there were complaints from counties over uniform billing practices and school districts covering multiple counties and how to allocate money to foster kids in our public-school systems. There is a fix in this bill from CDHS to more smoothly allocate the federal funds for this purpose.



This bill may sound familiar, because it was a bill, we supported last year, but did not make it to the finish line because of COVID.

This bill will be heard in Health and Human Services on March 16th.

Position: Support

Sponsors: Sen Moreno, Rep Michaelson Jenet

Lobbyist: Kyley Burress

HB21-1101 Preserving Family Relationships in Child Placement

With respect to a hearing in dependency and neglect cases, this bill gives authority to courts that may find good causes for granting a delay or continuance if there is evidence that in-person visitation or services were significantly delayed or interrupted by a public health emergency. Additionally, the bill would require child welfare provide additional reports to the court and would create a stricter timeline by the court around visitation. Counties have concern around the visitation piece. Counties would like to see a taskforce established to look at parenting time in dependency and neglect cases.

Position: Oppose unless amended

Sponsors: Sen. Buckner

Lobbyist: Kyley Burress

HB21-1107 Protections for Public Health Department workers

This bill is a continuum of pieces of legislation that passed the last two years to increase protections for social workers and human service workers, HB19-1197 and HB20-1052. Under current law it is unlawful for personal information of human service workers, caseworkers, and law enforcement personnel to be made available on the internet. HB21-1107 extends these protections to public health workers. Examples of personal information include phone number, home address, name of children and/ or spouse etc.

This legislation is necessary because with COVID putting public health directors in the spotlight, employees are concerned about their personal information being available on the internet and clients using that information for malicious purpose.

This bill passed unanimously out of committee and will be heard on the House Floor on Monday, February 8th.

Position: Support

Sponsors: Rep Caraveo and Carver, Sen. Bridges and Lundeen

Lobbyist: Kyley Burress



HB21-1084 Drivers' License for Foster Children

HB 1084 will assist individuals in the foster care system acquire a driver's license. This bill also creates a grant program in the Department of Human Services to reimburse counties for the costs paid to a public or private driving school for foster children between the ages of 15-20.

This bill may sound familiar because it was around last session, HB20-1071, but because of COVID it did not make it across the finish line.

This bill passed out unanimously out of committee and will be heard on the house floor on Monday, February 8th.

Position: Support

Sponsors: Rep Exum and Van Winkle, Sen. Hisey

Lobbyist: Kyley Burress



Justice & Public Safety

Chair: Commissioner Nancy Jackson, Arapahoe County
Vice Chair: Commissioner Tamara Pogue, Summit County
CCI Staff: Kyley Burress

HB21-1201 Transparency Telecommunications Correctional Facilities

This bill will require telecommunication service providers to in depth reporting and data around the telephone services they provide in jails and prisons. The reporting and data will be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The goal of this data and reporting requirement is to create more transparency around the telephone provider systems in the state. Additionally, the bill will require telecommunication service providers to establish a maximum (cap) for per-minute rates for all telephone services.

Position: Monitor with amendments

Sponsors: Rep Gonzalez- Gutierrez, Rep Tipper, Sen. Gonzales



Land Use & Natural Resources

Chair: Commissioner Ben Tisdell, Ouray County
Vice Chair: Commissioner Matt Scherr, Eagle County
CCI Staff: Daphne Gervais

HB21-1008, Forest Health Project Financing

HB21-1008 is a proposal developed by the Southwest Colorado Wildfire Impact Fund that adds an additional option for financing forest health projects and wildfire mitigation treatments. The bill enables any combination of local governments, contingent upon voter approval, to establish a special or local improvement district with the power to assess property taxes to conduct forest health projects, defined as any management action that improves the ecological health of a forest.

The bill also extends the Colorado water resources power and development authority's power to issue bonds to fund watershed protection and forest health projects through July 2033.

While existing law allows local governments to assess and collect sales tax for similar purposes, assessing property taxes may be more appropriate in some communities, and CCI supports giving counties the option to choose what works best for them locally.

The bill passed the House, and now awaits a hearing in the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

Position: Support

Sponsor: Rep. Arndt & Catlin, Sen. Cooke & Hansen

HB21-1019, Modification to Regulations of Factory-built Structures

HB21-1019 is a Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) bill that seeks to make it easier and more affordable to deploy modular homes, a type of affordable housing, in our state. The bill clarifies the jurisdictional authority of the Division of Housing in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to regulate the manufacture and installation of factory-built structures. A local government may not duplicate efforts to review or approve a factory-built structure that is under review or approved by the division, nor may it charge separate building permit fees for plan reviews or inspections performed by the division.

The bill also allows a local government to require onsite mitigation addressing public safety requirements that comply with the federal manufactured home construction and safety standard.

CCI voted to support HB 1019 contingent upon an amendment being adopted that explicitly recognizes fire-resistant roofing as a unique public safety requirement, like those related to wind



shear and snow load, that some local jurisdictions impose on modular or factory-built residential structures.

HB21-1019 will be heard in the House Transportation & Local Government Committee on Wednesday, March 17th.

Position: Support with Amendments
Sponsor: Rep. Hooton

HB21-1042, Water Storage Tanks Grant Program

HB 1042 would have created the Water Storage Tank Wildfire Mitigation Grant Program within the Colorado State Forest Service to make grants available to local governments, tribal agencies, and non-profits for the purchase of water storage tanks for wildfire fighting efforts.

At the request of the sponsor, the bill was postponed indefinitely in the House Agriculture, Livestock & Water Committee, to allow the sponsor to consider questions raised by stakeholders and the Committee and return with a more developed proposal.

Position: Monitor & Seek Amendments
Sponsor: Rep. Hanks

HB21-1117, Local Government Authority Promote Affordable Housing Units

HB21-1117 is a bill from the Colorado Municipal League that seeks to clarify local governments' ability to enact land use regulations that promote the development of new affordable housing units. This is the return of HB20-1351 that was postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19 last session. HB 1117 clarifies that local governments have the authority to enact inclusionary zoning, and in doing so, specifies that the provisions of the state's rent control statute do not apply to any land use regulation that restricts rent on newly constructed or redeveloped housing units, as long as the regulation provides options or alternatives to the property owner or land developer.

HB 1117 will be heard on second reading in the House today, March 15th.

Position: Support
Sponsor: Rep. Lontine & Gonzales-Gutierrez, Sen. Gonzales & Rodriguez



[HB21-1162](#), Management of Plastic Products

HB 1162 merges three measures from last session: [HB20-1163](#) (management of single-use products), [HB20-1162](#) (prohibit food establishments' use of polystyrene), and [SB20-010](#) (repeal ban on local gov. regulation of plastics).

HB 1162 repeals the ban on local government regulation of plastics and explicitly authorizes local governments to impose regulations on plastics that are more stringent than what is outlined in the bill beginning in July 2023. The bill outlines a timeline for phasing out single-use plastic bags and polystyrene (Styrofoam) take-out food containers. Between September 2021 and 2022, a store may supply a paper or plastic carryout bag for a 10-cent fee (or any fee adopted by a local government). Beginning in September 2022, stores and retail food establishments would be prohibited from providing single-use plastic carryout bags (with exemptions for existing inventory), but could continue supplying a paper carryout bag for a 10-cent fee (or any fee adopted by a local government). The bill clarifies that the bag fee does not apply to a customer that provides evidence of participating in a federal or state food assistance program.

After January 2022, the bill prohibits retail food establishments from using polystyrene take-out food container. The bill creates exemptions for food establishments within certain schools, and for existing inventory.

Beginning in 2022, a store would be required to remit 60% of the carryout bag fee revenues to the local government where the store is located, and the store is permitted to retain 40% of the fee revenues. A local government may use its portion of the fee revenue to cover administrative or enforcement costs, or to fund any recycling, composting, or other waste diversion programs and related outreach activities. While the bill authorizes local governments to enforce against a violation of the bill, any enforcement by a local government is voluntary.

HB 1162 passed the House Energy & Environment Committee, and was amended to clarify that no regulation by the state or any local government applies to materials used for medical purposes and regulated by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA). The bill now awaits a hearing in the House Finance Committee.

Position: Monitor

Sponsor: Rep. Valdez, A. & Cutter, Sen. Gonzales

[HB21-1208](#), Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise

HB 1208 creates the natural disaster mitigation enterprise that collects a fee from insurance companies that offer certain policies (\$1.25 of every \$1,000 in insurance premiums collected on hazard-related policies like fire, flood, earthquake, etc.). Fee revenue is used to finance a grant program established in the bill, and to provide local governments with technical assistance on



natural disaster mitigation. Grants are available to local governments to assist in implementing resilience and natural disaster mitigation measures, and to help provide matching funds for entities applying for federal FEMA grants dedicated to implementing pre-disaster mitigation measures.

The bill establishes a board of directors that must report to the General Assembly annually. The board consists of representatives of the Colorado Department of Public Safety, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Resiliency Office, and also includes four representatives of local governments from around the state, two scientists with expertise in weather hazards, resilience planning or disaster mitigation, and an expert on environmental justice issues.

HB 1208 will be heard in the House Energy & Environment on Thursday, March 18th.

Position: Support

Sponsor: Rep. Cutter & Gray, Sen. Priola & Winter

SB21-054, Transfers for Wildfire Mitigation and Response

SB21-054 transfers funds to be used to address wildland fires. The bill transfers \$6 million general fund to the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program, which is available to local governments. It transfers \$3 million general fund to the Wildfire Preparedness Fund for the Department of Public Safety to (1) use as the state match for federal hazard mitigation assistance grants to local governments used to mitigate fire hazards, and (2) to provide local governments eligible to receive a federal grant with strategic planning assistance for wildland fire hazard mitigation. Finally, the bill transfers \$4 million general fund to the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction (CWCB) Fund for the Watershed Restoration Program to support post-fire recovery and mitigation efforts.

The bill passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor.

Position: Support

Sponsor: Sen. Hansen & Rankin, Rep. McCluskie

SB21-072, Public Utilities Commission Modernize Electric Transmission Infrastructure

SB21-072 seeks to expand electric transmission facilities in the state by creating the Colorado Electric Transmission Authority (CETA). CETA is granted various powers in the bill, including the power to exercise eminent domain, and to establish intra- and interstate electric transmission corridors. CETA is governed by a board of directors, and is authorized to select a transmission operator that finances, operates and maintains transmission and related facilities. The bill requires



transmission utilities to join a regional transmission organization by 2030, and streamlines the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) approval process for new transmission facilities.

CCI supports SB 72, contingent upon an amendment being adopted that clarifies that (1) CETA is not property-tax exempt, (2) CETA's condemnation authority does not apply to local government property, and that (3) CETA is subject to local land use and siting approval. CCI worked with subject matter experts and the bill sponsor to develop language that achieves these clarifications.

SB 72 will be heard by the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee on Tuesday, March 16th.

Position: Support with Amendments
Sponsor: Sen. Hansen, Rep. Valdez, A.

SB21-113, Firefight Aircraft Wildfire Mgmt. and Response

SB 113 transfers \$30.8 million from federal stimulus funds flowing through the General Fund for the purchase and operation of a Firehawk helicopter, and for the lease and operation of other appropriate aviation resources equipped for wildfire mitigation.

The bill expands the uses of the Wildfire Emergency Preparedness Fund (WERF) to authorize DPS to use these funds to provide wildfire suppression assistance to county sheriffs, municipal fire departments, or fire protection districts at no cost to these entities. This aligns with the annual guidelines in the DPS Wildfire Preparedness Plan, and bolsters initial response capabilities to maximize the use of the Firehawk.

The bill passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor.

Position: Support
Sponsor: Sen. Fenberg & Rankin, Rep. McCluskie & Lynch

SB21-114, Minimum Setback New Schools from Existing Oil & Gas

SB 114 requires that proposed public school building sites be set back from existing oil and gas facilities by the setback distance required by the local government having land use jurisdiction over the site for locating new oil and gas facilities from public school properties. In the case where there is no local government setback requirements, the setback distance is set by the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission.

SB 114 will be heard in the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee on Tuesday, March 16th.

Position: No Position
Sponsor: Sen. Kirkmeyer



[SB21-136](#), Sunset Forest Health Advisory Council

The Forest Health Advisory Council (FHAC) is scheduled to repeal on September 1, 2021. SB 136 continues the committee until September 1, 2026, following a sunset review.

FHAC was created by [HB16-1255](#) to provide a collaborative forum to advise the State Forester on a range of issues, opportunities, and threats with regard to Colorado's forests.

SB 136 passed the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee unanimously, and now awaits a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: Support

Sponsor: Sen. Ginal & Coram

[SB21-166](#), Colorado Fire Commission Recommendations

SB 166 implements the recommendations of the 2020 Colorado Fire Commission Annual Report. The bill updates mutual aid statutes. Under current law, all resources from an agency assisting in fire prevention are under the control of the requesting agency and liability is placed with the requesting agency. The bill changes these statutory provisions so that the assisting agency, under the direction of the incident commander, retains operational control of its resources and the associated liability for the actions of its crews. The bill also adds the public emergency medical services (EMS) agencies to allow for better coordination of EMS mutual aid resources.

SB 166 also creates the state responsibility and large wildland fire fund, to be administered by the Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC). Beginning in July, the bill requires the state to make an annual transfer from the general fund into the wildland fire fund, to be used to pay for the state's share of suppression costs on large responsibility fires that are deemed to be the state's responsibility.

The bill also establishes the regional and statewide mutual aid system (RSMAS) to bolster the coordinated initial response of emergency responders to emergency incidents. DFPC establishes and maintains the RSMAS, including implementing the Colorado coordinated regional mutual aid system (CCRMAS), which establishes 4 DFPC districts across the state. Each DFPC district has a regional mutual aid coordinator who serves as a point of contact within the district and coordinates mutual aid requests for fire and EMS resources. All emergency responders are part of the RSMAS and CCRMAS unless they opt-out, but any responder who opts out is only eligible for reimbursement to the extent that DFPC authorizes.

SB 166 requires the state to transfer any money in the aviation resources line that would otherwise revert to the general fund into the wildfire preparedness fund (WPF), for the purpose of traditional mitigation efforts. DFPC is required to report to the JBC every three years beginning in 2025 on its expenditures from the transfers made into the WPF under the bill.



SB 166 awaits a hearing in the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

Position: Support

Sponsor: Sen. Rankin & Fenberg, Rep. McCluskie & Will

SB21-170, Wildland Fire Mitigation Cooperative Electric Association

SB 170 is being brought forward by the Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA), and requires electric cooperatives (coops) to file wildfire mitigation plans with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) every three years. The bill specifies what needs to be included in the plan, and requires coops to annually report on the implementation of that plan in exchange for liability protection.

The bill also gives coops more authority to manage vegetation, by allowing them to remove vegetation outside of their right-of-way that they determine to be a hazard, or as they determine to be necessary to continue the safe operation of their facilities following a major weather or emergency event. The bill releases coops from liability if (1) a landowner fails to control vegetation on their land surrounding coop's right-of-way, (2) a landowner prevents a coop from removing hazard vegetation outside of the right-of-way, or (3) a coop is denied access to their right-of-way on land owned by a local government for the purpose of managing vegetation. The bill requires the coop to provide notice to the landowner if it is removing hazard vegetation outside of its right-of-way, unless the removal of the hazard vegetation is necessary to continue the safe operation of the coop's facilities.

SB 170 awaits a hearing in the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee.

Position: Monitor & Seek Amendments

Sponsor: Sen. Hisey & Ginal, Rep. Arndt & Lynch



Taxation & Finance

Chair: Commissioner Richard Elsner, Park County
Vice Chair: Commissioner Bob Campbell, Teller County
CCI Staff: Gini Pingnot

HB21-1023, Energy Facility Real Property Classification

HB 1023 allows the county assessor to change the classification of real property where a solar garden (over 2 MWs) or wind farm exists. For the most part, these renewable energy installations operate on land that is classified as ‘agricultural’. As such, it is valued using a ‘productive capacity’ consideration which usually results in a low valuation. The 29% assessment rate is then applied.

Under HB 1023, a county assessor can classify the real property as something other than ‘agricultural’. It could be classified as ‘industrial’ or ‘vacant’ land. In both cases, the 29% assessment rate would still be applied but the starting value would be a market value which is generally higher resulting in increased property taxes.

HB 1023 will be heard on Monday, March 15th in the House Finance Committee. Moffat County Commissioner Melody Villard will be representing CCI’s support at the hearing.

Position: Support
Sponsors: Rep. Will, Sen. Coram
Staff: Gini Pingnot

HB21-1061, Residential Land Property Tax Classification

HB 1061 is the culmination of a long standing legal debate around the application of the term ‘residential land’. For many years, hundreds of land owners have argued that their vacant parcels that might be near – or touching – the parcel with their home on it should receive the 7.15% residential assessment rate rather than the 29% assessment rate. The debate has centered around these currently undefined terms in state statute: 1.) contiguous and 2.) residential improvement.

HB 1061 defines these terms and clarifies that only parcels that meet all three of the following criteria can be considered residential and assessed at the 7.15%: 1.) identical ownership based on the record title; 2.) physically touching except that contiguity is not interrupted by an intervening local street, alley or common element in a common-interest community and 3.) consists of a related improvement like a driveway or a parking space.

HB 1061 has not yet been calendared for a hearing in the Senate Local Government Committee.

Position: Support
Sponsors: Rep. Gray, Sen. Hansen



HB21-1132, Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Fund

HB 1132 makes three changes to the Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Fund: 1.) prioritizes local governmental entities with lower property values as eligible applicants; 2.) defines the type of negative impacts that may be considered for a grant and 3.) allows nonprofit community mental health centers or clinics to receive the small carve out of funds that is available for gambling addiction counseling services.

The Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Fund currently has \$1.9 million appropriated to it. Eligible local governments that may apply to the fund are Boulder, Clear Creek, Grand, Jefferson, El Paso, Fremont, Park, Douglas, Gilpin, Teller, La Plata, Montezuma and Archuleta (and any municipalities within these 13 counties except for Central City, Black Hawk, Cripple Creek, Woodland Park and Victor).

HB 1132 will be heard in the House Transportation and Local Government Committee on Tuesday, March 16th.

Position: Monitor with Amendments
Sponsors: Rep. Amabile & Baisley, Sen. Story

HB21-1083, State Board Assessment Appeals Valuation Adjustment

Under current law, when a property owner appeals the valuation of property set by a county board of equalization, the State Board of Assessment Appeals may not increase the valuation. This bill removes this restriction.

Often times, property owners who appeal their property valuations, bypass the first two appeal steps and go straight to the State Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA). Since the BAA cannot **increase** values – they can only decrease values or keep them the same – this creates an incentive to bypass the earlier steps (where all three options exist – increase, decrease or maintain property values). HB21-1083 remedies this situation and may help reduce the backlog of cases that have plagued the BAA for years.

Position: Support
Sponsors: Rep. Benavidez, Sen. Zenzinger & Priola

SB21-020, Energy Equipment and Facility Property Tax Valuations

SB 20 does primarily two things: 1.) values battery storage using a ‘cost approach’ and 2.) extends the existing 20-year valuation tax factor for solar gardens of 2 MW or less to 30-years and applies the income approach to valuing these renewable energy installations.



According to the fiscal note, changing the valuation methodology for community solar gardens to the income approach will result in reduced local property tax revenue of \$3.1m in tax year 2022 and \$3.5 million in tax year 2023. As it relates to battery storage and the reduced rate at which it is assessed, the fiscal note reads: “the bill will reduce the amount of property taxes collected by local government by an indeterminate amount”.

SB 20 will be heard in the House Energy and Environment Committee on March 24th.

Position: Monitor

Sponsors: Sen. Hansen & Hisey, Rep. A. Valdez & Soper

SB21-130, Local Authority for Business Personal Property

SB 130 states that counties, municipalities, and special districts may exempt business personal property from the property taxes they levy for the 2021 tax year, and includes a legislative declaration encouraging them to do so.

The Colorado Constitution’s TABOR Amendment empowers local governments to “enact cumulative uniform exemptions and credits to reduce or end business personal property taxes.” The bill is assumed not to grant authority beyond what is already included in the constitution.

SB 130 will be heard in the Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee on Tuesday, March 16th.

Position: Monitor

Sponsors: Sen. Holbert, Rep. Van Winkle



Tourism, Resorts & Economic Development

Chair: Commissioner Richard Cimino, Grand County
Vice Chair: Commissioner Elisabeth Lawrence, Summit County
CCI Staff: Daphne Gervais

HB21-1009, Update Division of Housing Function & Local Development

HB21-1009 is a bill from the Department of Local Affairs that seeks to update the statutory functions of the Division of Housing to promote the state's goals related to local development, affordable housing, and energy performance. Currently, the statutory functions of the Division include conducting research on new approaches to housing; the bill expands the Division's functions to include both researching and incentivizing (1) transit-oriented development, (2) increased housing density near employment, education, and town centers, and (3) advanced energy performance standards that minimize total building operational costs. The bill also expands the Division's functions to include collaboration with other state agencies to develop these incentives and to identify state-owned assets that can be used for low- and moderate-income housing.

HB21-1009 passed the House and now awaits a hearing in the Senate Local Government Committee.

Position: Monitor

Sponsor: Rep. Bennett, Sen. Bridges & Coram

HB21-1028, Annual Public Report Affordable Housing

HB 1028 is being brought forward by Habitat for Humanity Colorado and the Colorado Realtors Association, and creates an annual public reporting requirement for the State Division of Housing within the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The report would look at how state and federal housing funds are distributed across the state, by including information on the types of projects being funded (home ownership, permanent supportive housing, homelessness assistance, rental housing assistance, housing rehabilitation, preservation, etc.), the purpose of awards (constructing new housing stock, rehabilitating existing stock, down payment assistance, etc.), the number of housing units being preserved or produced, the location of projects, and the source of funding.

The bill passed the House Transportation & Local Government Committee, and was amended to clarify the focus of the report, and to align the timing of the report with DOLA's SMART Act Hearing to minimize the fiscal note on the bill. The bill now awaits a hearing in the House Appropriations Committee.

Position: Support

Sponsor: Rep. Bird & Rich, Sen. Story & Woodward



Transportation & Telecommunications

Chair: Commissioner Holly Williams, El Paso County
Vice Chair: Commissioner Jim Candelaria, Montezuma County
CCI Staff: Eric Bergman

HB21-1056, CDOT Cost Thresholds for Public Project Bidding Requirements

As introduced, HB 1056 would raise the statutory cap for CDOT highway maintenance from the current \$150,000 up to \$500,000. The bill is an efficiency measure that should allow CDOT to more expeditiously make highway maintenance repairs – especially on the state’s rural highways – without having to go out to bid so frequently. CCI has learned that the new proposed \$500,000 cap in the bill is likely to be amended downward to \$250,000 in committee at the request of the Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association. The bill will be heard in the House Transportation and Local Government Committee on March 16.

Position: Support
Sponsors: Rep. Pelton, Sen. Hansen

HB21-1095, Exempt County Road Maintenance from 811 Locate Requirement

HB 1095 would allow county road and bridge departments to conduct basic maintenance on unpaved county roads without having to call Colorado 811 for utility locates, provided that the maintenance activity doesn’t lower the grade of the road or disturb more than six inches of soil. The bill is a CCI legislative priority and reflects a compromise that was reached between CCI, Colorado 811, the Colorado Contractors Association, Xcel Energy and the Colorado Association of Road Supervisors and Engineers (CARSE) in 2019. Twenty-nine other states have a similar exemption for road maintenance. The bill was set to be heard last week in committee, but the hearing has been postponed until March 24 so that CCI can work on some amendments to address concerns brought forward by the PUC – Gas Pipeline Safety Program.

Position: CCI Bill - Support
Sponsors: Reps. Baisley and Kipp, Sens. Ginal and Woodward

HB21-1109, Broadband Board Changes to Expand Broadband Service

HB 1109 makes a number of changes to the Broadband Deployment Board and to the processes for granting funds to improve broadband service around the state. The bill reduces the number of members on the board from 16 down to 11 - but mandates that two of the members must be county commissioners (one from the Eastern Plains and one from the West Slope). As amended, up to 60



percent of the program funds are to be prioritized to the most critically underserved areas of the state, which are defined as areas not currently receiving service at speeds of 10 megabits down and 1 megabit up. The bill also provides for better mapping and speed testing in order to determine where these critically underserved areas are around the state. The bill passed out of the House Finance Committee last week on a 9-2 vote, and now awaits a floor hearing.

Position: Support

Sponsors: Reps. Titone and Soper

SB21-060, Expand Broadband Service

SB 60 is another piece of legislation that makes changes to the Broadband Deployment Board and some of the grant program processes. Like HB 1109, it reduces the number of members on the Board – in this case from 16 members down to nine. Three of the nine members must be representatives of local government. The bill would direct 50% of the program funding to areas that are critically underserved and also directs a portion of the program funding to households that qualify for free school lunches to aid in providing Internet service to school-aged children. Finally, the bill requires better coordination between the Middle-Mile Grant Program in the Department of Local Affairs and the Broadband Deployment Program.

The bill is awaiting a hearing in the Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee.

Position: Support

Sponsors: Sen. Donovan, Rep. Roberts

SB21-084, County Authority on Roughed-In Roads

SB 84 clarifies that counties have the authority to prohibit motor vehicles from travelling on roughed-in roads. The bill defines “roughed-in roads” as areas of ground that have been cut with the intention of making a roadway but have not been improved enough to qualify as a roadway. The bill passed the Senate Local Government Committee last week on a 5-0 vote and is now awaiting a floor hearing on the consent calendar.

Position: Support

Sponsors: Sen. Smallwood, Rep. Gray