



2015 State Legislation: New Authorities and Mandates

The following table is designed to serve as a brief general reference source. Commissioners, Councilmembers and mayors should always seek advice and counsel from the county or city attorney concerning specific implementation requirements.

General Government

2015 Legislation	Local Option	Local Requirement	Effective Date
SB15-14 Regulation of Medical Marijuana Caregivers (Aguilar, Singer)	Protects local land use authority to regulate growing of marijuana (commercial or otherwise). (CRS § 25-1.5-106 (13.5)) Allows local government access to information on caregiver locations and plant counts. (CRS § 25-1.5-106 (8.6)(c)&(d))		May 14, 2015
SB15-288 Salaries of Elected Officials (Baumgardner & Hodge, Hamner & Rankin)	Raises the salaries of all county elected officials by 30% beginning in either 2017 or 2019. Under the legislation, counties have the option to move (legislatively) to a subcategory within their statutory category to receive a reduced percentage raise (20%, 10% or 0%). (CRS § 30-2-102)		January 1, 2016
HB15-1202 Alcohol Beverage License Reissuance (Singer, Woods)	Gives counties the discretion to reissue an alcohol beverage license that has expired rather than making the licensee apply for a new license. (CRS § 12-47-302 (2)(d))		August 5, 2015
HB15-1217 Local Government Input on Liquor Sales Room Applications (Singer, Holbert)	Allows local licensing authorities to make comment on applications by wineries and beer wholesalers for requests to open and operate sales rooms. (CRS § 12-47-402 (2)(c))		August 5, 2015

Health and Human Services

2015 Legislation	Local Option	Local Requirement	Effective Date
HB15-1358 Differential Response Program Abuse and Neglect (Singer & Lundberg, Kefalas)	A county may choose to participate in the differential response program, a program used for addressing low to moderate risk abuse and neglect cases. HB 1358 removed the repeal date on this program which started out as a pilot program in 2010. (CRS § 19-3-308.3)		May 14, 2015
SB15-12 Colorado Works Pass-through Child Support Payment (Kefalas, Pettersen)		No earlier than January 2017, SB 12 requires the state and counties to pass child support payments through to a custodial parent on TANF. The implementation of SB 12 is dependent on when the state's IT systems can accommodate the pass-through AND when the general assembly appropriates the funding necessary to reimburse counties for their respective shares of retained child support payments. (CRS § 26-2-108 (1)(b)(II)(A) &(B))	August 5, 2015
SB15-241 Collaborative Management Program (CMP) Human Services (Steadman & Kefalas)	A county may choose to participate in the collaborative management program, a program whereby school, law enforcement, judicial, human services and many other community partners work together on overcoming barriers to children and families in the child welfare system. SB 241 requires participating counties and their local partners to identify performance measures for their local programs and to annually report those to the Department of Human Services. (CRS § 24-1.9-102 (2)(c)(i)). SB 241 included an additional \$1.5 million beginning in SFY2015-16 to help CMPs do their work.		May 1, 2015
SB15-242 Child Welfare Staff Funding Allocation (Grantham & Young)	A county may choose to accept additional state general funds to hire new child welfare staff. (CRS § 26-5-104 (8)(a))	If state funding is accepted, funds cannot be used to provide raises to existing child welfare staff or supplant other funds. Commissioners must attest that the new funding they receive was used to fund newly created county FTE. Any funding that is not used by November 30, 2015 will be refunded back to the state and redistributed to other counties.	May 1, 2015

Land Use and Natural Resources

2015 Legislation	Local Option	Local Requirement	Effective Date
HB15-1212 Authority to Sell State Land Trust to Local Governments (K. Becker & Kerr)	HB 1212 extends – until July 2020 – the authority for the State Land Board to convey land directly to an interested local government up to twice in a fiscal year.		May 11, 2015

Public Lands

2015 Legislation	Local Option	Local Requirement	Effective Date
HB15-1225 Federal Land Coordination (Rankin and K. Becker & Roberts and Donovan)	Local governments may apply to the Department of Local Affairs for technical support in entering into cooperating agency relationships with federal agencies or entering into MOUs with federal land management agencies. (CRS § 24-20-113 (1)(a)) Additional information about this opportunity will be posted on DoLA's website no later than July 1, 2015.		May 13, 2015

Taxation and Finance

2015 Legislation	Local Option	Local Requirement	Effective Date
HB15-1348 Urban Redevelopment Fairness Act (Hullingerhorst and Lawrence & Heath and Balmer)	For urban renewal authorities and urban renewal plans that are modified or adopted after January 1, 2016, counties may appoint one member to the urban renewal authority board. (CRS § 31-25-104 (2)(a)(I) and CRS § 31-25-115)	For urban renewal authorities and urban renewal plans that are modified or adopted after January 1, 2016, local governments must meet and attempt to negotiate an agreement to fund the urban renewal plan. (CRS § 31-25-107 (9.5)(a)). In the absence of an agreement, a mediator will determine the allocation of urban renewal project costs. At the conclusion of the mediation, the municipality has the discretion to agree to the mediator's findings, continue negotiating with other affected local governments or pursue the project without the increment of other local government taxes. (CRS § 31-25-107 (9.5)(d)).	January 1, 2016
HB15-1367 Retail Marijuana Taxes (Hamner & Steadman)	1.) A local government that does not impose a special sales or excise tax on marijuana and does not allow for retail marijuana sales may apply for a grant to address documented marijuana impacts.		Upon Governor's Signature

	<p>(CRS § 24-32-117) In SFY 2015-16, \$1 million is available.</p> <p>2.) Counties may seek voter approval for a local excise tax of up to 5% on retail marijuana. A county is not allowed to levy their marijuana excise tax in a city that also has a marijuana excise tax. (CRS § 29-2-114)</p>		
<p>SB15-82 County Workforce Development Property Tax Incentives (Marble and Hodge & Moreno and Lawrence)</p>	<p>1.) A county may establish a workforce development program to provide financial assistance to county residents who pursue post-secondary education or training from an accredited institution of higher education or a certified training program. (CRS § 30-11-126 (3))</p> <p>2.) A county may offer a county property tax credit or rebate to a residential or commercial property owner in the county who contributes to a county workforce development fund. (CRS § 30-11-126 (4)(a))</p>		<p>August 5, 2015</p>
<p>SB15-282 Jump-Start Program Economic Development Distressed Counties (Scott and Johnston & Duran and Willet)</p>	<p>A distressed county (population < 250,000 and has economic distress indicators such as a per capita income substantially below the statewide average) may adopt a resolution affirming that it will provide incentive payments, exemptions or refunds of business personal property tax to new business and can eliminate any other tax imposed or paid by such new business, as appropriate. (CRS § 39-30.5-106 (1)(a))</p>		<p>May 13, 2015</p>