



2015 Legislative Session Review

CAUCUS AGENDA BILLS

Jobs and the Economy

Senate Bill 180—(Neville P.) & House Bill 1065—(DelGrosso)

Would have required state agencies to provide written warnings to small businesses for first-time violations in lieu of a fine.

Killed on party-line votes.

House Bill 1172—(DelGrosso)

Would have leveled the playing field between small business and the state government when awarding damages.

Killed on a party-line vote.

"Small businesses should not be treated any differently than state and local governments. My bill would have leveled the playing field and given businesses the same protections Democrats gave state governmental agencies in 2013. I am disappointed Democrats were once again unwilling to support small business in Colorado."

House Minority Leader Brian DelGrosso (R-Loveland)

House Bill 1176—(Tate)

Would have limited the authority of the Department of Labor and Employment to conduct audits or investigations to the initial purpose of the audit or investigation.

Killed on a party-line vote.

House Bill 1177—(Willett)

Would have created a rural economic development initiative grant program to stimulate economic growth in rural communities.

Passed the House but killed in the Senate.

Responsible Government

House Bill 1109—(DelGrosso)

Would have fulfilled the full five years of transportation funding promised in SB 09-228.

Killed on a party-line vote.

House Bill 1119—(Buck)

Would have required counties that enact fracking bans to compensate mineral rights owners for the loss of access to their property.

Killed on a party-line vote.

Senate Bill 019—(Nordberg)

Expands the Colorado Office of the State Auditor's authority over Connect for Health Colorado.

Signed into law.

"The limited performance audit of Connect for Health Colorado in December was very concerning and confirmed the need for an expanded and more comprehensive audit. I am pleased my colleagues and the governor agreed to support this approach to ensure our state health exchange is responsibly managing taxpayer dollars."

Rep. Dan Nordberg (R-Colorado Springs)



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CAUCUS AGENDA BILLS (CONTINUED)

Public Safety & Victim Protection

House Bill 1043—(Saine)

Gives district attorneys the option to prosecute a fourth DUI in a lifetime as a Class 4 felony.
Signed into law.

House Bill 1031—(Windholz)

Authorizes the Department of Revenue to establish a regulatory framework for the sale of powdered alcohol in Colorado.
Signed into law.

"Powdered alcohol is new and unknown and I am pleased we were able to put the appropriate safeguards in place to help protect kids from this potentially dangerous product in Colorado."

Rep. JoAnn Windholz (R-Commerce City)

House Bill 1174—(Carver)

Prohibits state and local governments from knowingly disclosing the actual address or other personal information of domestic violence victims in online databases.
Signed into law.

Education

House Bill 1058—(Becker J.)

Would have allocated future budget surpluses to K-12 and higher education to help reduce the negative factor.
Killed on a party-line vote.

"During the recession our state was forced to make significant cuts in education funding. While I am encouraged to see our recovery moving forward, I cannot think of a more important investment than our kids' education and am very disappointed Democrats were unwilling to commit unallocated funds to our schools."

Rep. Jon Becker (R-Fort Morgan)

House Bill 1104—(Navarro)

Would have created a \$250 state tax deduction for teachers, which mirrored a former federal tax deduction, to offset the cost of books, supplies and computer equipment that is paid for by the teacher for use in their classroom.
Passed the House but killed in the Senate.

FINAL 2015 STATS

	House Bills	Senate Bills	Total Bills	Bills that Passed Both Houses	Percentage of Total Bills Passed:
Republican Sponsored	92	62	154	35	10%
Democrat Sponsored	94	74	168	64	17%
Bi-Partisan Sponsored	206	154	360	270	73%
Total:	392	290	682	369	



OPENING DAY REMARKS IN REVIEW

“
Transportation is vital for business and commerce to flow through Colorado, and to help keep up with current and projected growth...
It's time we start making transportation funding a priority.”

House Bill 1109— Would have fulfilled the full five years of transportation funding promised in SB 09-228
Killed by Democrats on a party-line vote.

Senate Bill 272— Would have permitted \$3.5 billion in private bonds to fund nearly 60 transportation projects
Killed by Democrats on a party-line vote.

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“
*These natural resources are valuable to our state and to the mineral right owners. While we may debate the proper amount of state and local control over our natural resource development, **the property owners' rights must be protected.***”

House Bill 1119— Would have required local governments that enact fracking bans to compensate mineral rights owners for the loss of access to their property. **Killed by Democrats on a party-line vote**

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“***Small business is the economic driver in Colorado,*** yet instead of getting out of their way, this legislative body has insisted on piling on more regulations. “

House Bill 1065 and Senate Bill 180—Would have required state agencies to provide written warnings to small businesses for first-time, minor violations of new rules in lieu of fines. **Killed by Democrats on party-line votes.**

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“
Last year we successfully prioritized more funding for our schools, and this year ***Republicans will again call for more on-going funding to reduce the negative factor*** instead of one-time dollars.”

House Bill 1058—Would have allocated future budget surpluses in Colorado's General Fund to the State Education Fund. **Killed by Democrats on a party-line vote.**

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“
*Republicans will continue to defend our Taxpayers Bill of Rights. [WE] believe that the people can spend their money better than Government can. **TABOR refunds are owed to our taxpayers and we will fight to have that money returned to them.***”

House Bill 1389—Would have permitted the state to bypass a taxpayer vote to take a percentage of funds that otherwise would be refunded to the taxpayers in accordance with TABOR. **Passed the House with no Republican support and killed in the Senate.**

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“*Republicans started this session with a vision to help address issues in every region of Colorado and I had hoped to get more support from my colleagues across the aisle. While we made progress this session, there is still work to be done and we must continue to find ways to help all of Colorado prosper.*”

House Minority Leader Brian DelGrosso
May 6, 2015



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Are Democrats Pro Business??

Their Votes Suggest otherwise

Business-supported legislation killed by Democrats (All bills killed by Democrats on party-line votes)

- **House Bill 1172—Repeal Punitive Damages Employment Discrimination**

Would have eliminated the punitive damage awards authorized by HB 13-1136 which would have leveled the playing field between small business and the government.

- **House Bill 1176—Department Of Labor And Employment Audit Authority**

Would have required the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment to clearly state the purpose of any audit on private companies, and prohibited the department from going beyond the scope of the audit.

- **House Bill 1065 and Senate Bill 180—Regulatory Reform Act of 2015**

Would have required state agencies to provide written warnings to small businesses for first-time violations in lieu of a fine.

- **Senate Bill 091—Reduce Statute Of Limitations Construction Defects**

Would have reduced the statute of limitations for construction defects litigation from eight years to six.

- **Senate Bill 141—Income Tax Credit For Property Taxes Paid Eligibility**

Would have increased the business personal property tax credit.

- **Senate Bill 177—HOA Construction Defect Lawsuit Approval Timelines**

Would have sparked construction of affordable housing in Colorado by giving builders more opportunity to cure construction defects ahead of litigation and required any class action lawsuits have the consent of a majority of homeowners.

Business-opposed legislation sponsored by Democrats (No bill received Republican support)

- **House HCR 1001—Colorado Constitution Minimum Wage**

Would have created a referred measure on the November 2016 ballot to raise the minimum wage to \$12.50.

- **House Bill 1300—Repeal of the prohibition on local governments enacting minimum wage laws.**

Would have allowed individual districts to set unique minimum wages, creating a patchwork of laws across the state.

- **House Bill 1258—FAMLI Insurance Program Wage Replacement**

Would have imposed a fee on every working Coloradan to purchase paid-leave insurance regardless if they wanted to participate in the program.

- **House Bill 1342—Personnel File Right Of Inspection**

Would have forced all non-government employers to retain and disclose all personnel files and threatened employers with a \$100 per day penalty for non-compliance.

