

2021 COLORADO STATE LEGISLATION CONCERNING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Updated July 7, 2021-Final

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1117 Lontine & Gonzales-Gutierrez Local Gov Authority Promote Affordable Housing Units +C,h,W,a,y,r,e,x,l,p,T,N,v,s,S,R
1121 Jackson & Jodeh Residential Tenancy Procedures +C,h,y,r,e,l,w,p,W,s,S
1134 Ricks Report Tenant Rent Payment Info to Credit Agencies +w
1194 Tipper & Ricks Immigration Legal Defense Fund +I,m,f,W,w,C,c,v,a,h,i
1198 Jodeh Health Care Billing Requirement for Indigent Persons +C,c,W,a,R,A,h,t
1214 Weissman Record Sealing Collateral Consequences Reduction +i,C,r
1220 Froelich Child Support Commission Recommendations +C
1222 Valdez A & Van Winkle Regulation of Family Child Care Homes +R,y,W,C,z
1232 Roberts & Jodeh Standardized Health Benefit Plan Colorado Option +c,r,C,y,g,x,w
1264 Sullivan & Young Funds Workforce Dev Increase Work Skills +2,C
1270 Exum & Caraveo Approp to DHS for SNAP Employment and Training +2,C,r
1271 McCluskie & Jodeh DOLA Innovative Affordable Housing Strategies +w,e
1277 Valdez D & Will Eligible Recipients for Final Disposition Expenses
1304 Sirota & Garnett Early Childhood System +y,z
1311 Sirota & Weissman Income Tax +f,b,z,y,C,a,T,p,m,9,A,r,I,j,w,n,N,W
1329 Gonzales-Gutierrez & Woodrow ARP Money Affordable Housing +C,e,i,w
KILLED
176 Winter & Pettersen Protecting Opportunities & Workers Rights Act +9,b,i,N,W,b,C,y,z

* Supporting/Opposing Orgs (+ support; - oppose)

F = UNE

m = Spring Institute

C = CO Ctr on Law and Policy	g = COLOR	n = New Era	u = Mile High United Way
2 = Skills2Compete	G =Gathering Place	N = United for a New Economy	v = Violence-Free Colorado
9 = 9 to 5	h = CO Coalition for Homeless	p = Lutheran Advocacy Ministry	w = League of Women Voters
a = AFDC Coalition	H = Hunger Free Colorado	P = Padres Y Jovenes Unidos	W = women's Lobby
A = AARP	i = Interfaith Alliance	r = Cross Disabilities Coalition	x = Healthier Colorado
b = Bell Policy Ctr	I = CIRC	R = Raise Colorado	y = CO Children's Campaign
c = CO Consumer Health Initiative	j = Illuminate	s = Sr. Lobby	Y = Young Invincibles
E = Energy Outreach Colorado	k = Elephant Circle	S = CO Social Legislation Com	z = Women's Foundation
e = Enterprise Com Partners,	L = COPA	t = Towards Justice	
f = Colorado Fiscal Institute	M = Metro Caring	T = Together Colorado	

U = AAUW



2021 COLORADO STATE LEGISLATION CONCERNING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Updated July 7, 2021-Final

State budget

Last year the legislature cut \$3.3 billion from the state budget, with careful, but dramatic cuts, from education, affordable housing, social programs, and savings. Colorado also budgeted for dramatic case and cost surges in Medicaid, which did not materialize. Tax revenues were greater than originally feared given the level of job loss. Income for many did not fall, as remote work began. Federal aid, the CARES Act, and the American Recovery Act have prevented the economy and state budget from collapsing.

Among CCLP's budget priorities are restoring funding for SSI/SSDI Application Assistance Program, funding for rental assistance and eviction prevention, affordable housing, SNAP employment and training, digital inclusion, childcare, and education and training for those facing challenges in the job market such as adults without a high school diploma.

We are also examining the invisible budget. Like a budget, Colorado's slate of tax credits is also a moral decision. For what reason, and for whom, does our state allow tax breaks? Given our flat rate income tax and reliance on sales tax, Coloradans with the lowest incomes pay a higher percentage of their income in state taxes than Coloradans who make more money. HB1311 would to rebalance tax credits to assist struggling families, expanding the EITC and Child Tax Credit, paid for by capping deductions and eliminating certain corporate tax breaks.

Income/expenses

SB018 helps people get a Colorado ID by paying for the ID or underlying documents. SB199 removes some requirement for proving lawful presence prior to receiving state or local public benefits. SB153 formalizes a program to ensure those leaving prison have a current ID. SB027 pays for diaper distribution for those who can't afford them. HB1105 would increase funding for energy assistance through a \$1-2 monthly fee on utility bills. It would also allow water utilities to institute an opt-in monthly fee to help finance water bill payment assistance. HB1220 lowers the interest rate on back owed child support from 12% to 10%, adds authority to intercept life insurance for payment of back owed support and requires reporting independent contractors to Dept of Labor New Hire List to expedite child support collection.

HB1214 would automate record sealing for certain arrests that did not result in charges. It allows those with convictions to file with the court for an order of collateral relief retrospectively. For those who receive a full pardon, their records would be sealed. It allows certain drug conviction records to automatically seal after a certain period of time.

Workforce centers and programs would get an additional \$25 if HB1264 passes. The money is targeting to re-training, upskilling, and training for a job of the future for the currently unemployed and underemployed . Under HB1270, SNAP Employment and Training programs by counties and third party venders would receive \$3 million to be spent over two years, pulling down matching federal funds. This would enable them to be more robust, able to offer paid training and work-based learning along with support services. SB233 would require a feasibility study for immigrants without work authorizations to have an alternative to unemployment compensation (for which they are not eligible) if their employers are contributing to unemployment insurance on their behalf and they would otherwise be eligible.

Housing

Even prior to the epidemic, about half of Colorado renters paid more than 30% of their income for rent, with about ¼ of renters paying more than half their income for rent. With job and income losses during the pandemic, more struggle to keep up with rent in our high rent market. SB173 limits late fees, adds financial penalties for illegal lockouts in lieu of eviction, and gives renters more time to come up with rent prior to actual eviction. HB1121 limits rent increases to once annually and requires 10 days to execute a writ of restitution in evictions. HB1054 creates an exception for housing programs on requirement that applicants for public benefits verify lawful presence, unless otherwise required by federal law.

Health

HB1198 requires hospitals to screen uninsured patients for their eligibility for the hospital discount program and for public programs. It requires them to offer a payment plan prior to sending patients to collections. SB009 creates a program to provide contraceptives and counseling for a oneyear period for Coloradans who are eligible for Medicaid, but for their immigration status. SB025 would seek federal approval to raise the income eligibility threshold for family planning services to 250% of FPL and enables women to get a full year supply at a time. SB175 establishes a board to review affordability of certain prescription drugs and establish upper payment limits if found to be unaffordable. HB1232 establishes a standardized health benefit plan that would be offered if current insurers do not reduce their premium costs. SB193 & 194 address racial disparity in childbirth; SB194 would have the state apply for a waiver to offer a continuous 1 year of coverage post-partum to those Medicaid eligible.