



Colorado Center  
on Law and Policy

# 2021 COLORADO STATE LEGISLATION CONCERNING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Updated May 12, 2021

Bill#	Sponsor	Title	Committee*	Supporting/Opposing Orgs**
001	Winter & Gonzales	Extending Limitations on Debt Collection Actions	LAW	+b,r,n
009	Jaquez Lewis & Caraveo	Reproductive Health Care Program	H	+g,l, y,c,C,j,w,v,W,z
014	Kirkmeyer	Allocation Formula CO Child Care Program	Sapp	-y
018	Moreno	Continue Necessary Documents Program	Hpbh	+C,M,a,h,y,c,G,x,v,H,w,z
025	Pettersen	Family Planning Serv for Eligible Individuals	H	+y,g,c,j,l,C,r,W,z
027	Petersen	Emergency Supplies for CO Babies & Families	Hpbh	+W,C,y,g,l,j,v,z,a,R
087	Danielson	Agricultural Works Rights	S2nd	+t,g,N,l,C,H,p,W,H,i
091	Liston and Rodriguez	Credit Transaction Charge Limitations	S2nd	-C,a,c
131	Gonzales	Protect Personal Identifying Information Kept by State	S2nd	+l,C,W,c,w,n
153	Coleman & Cooke	DOC Offender ID Assistance Program	LAW	+x,C,h,i
173	Gonzalez & Moreno	Rights in Residential Lease Agreements	Hbl	+h,9,C,e,a,g,y,c,r,f,i,l,s,x,p,u,z,T,R,m,N,j,W,S
175	Jaquez Lewis & Gonzales	Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board	H	+c,a,C,Y,r,A, i,w,Y
176	Winter & Pettersen	Protecting Opportunities & Workers Rights Act	Sapp	+9,b,i,N,W,b,C,y,z
181	Fields & Coram	Equity Strategic Plan Address Health Disparities	Hpbh	+r,A,w
193	Buckner	Protection of Pregnant People in Perinatal Period	H	+R,k,W,c,C,y,j,l,z
194	Buckner	Maternal Health Providers	H	+R,k,W,C,c,y,j,z
199	Jaquez Lewis & Winter	Remove Barriers to Certain Public Opportunities	S2nd	+y,C,c,r,j,w,z
231	Story & Hisey	Energy Office Weatherization Assistance Grants	Hene	+A,r
233	Rodriguez & Hansen	CDLE Unemployment Insurance Division Enterprise	Sbl	+f,L
236	Story & Sonnenberg	increase Capacity Early Childhood Care & Education	S2nd	+z,y
242	Gonzales & Pettersen	Housing Devel Grant Hotel Tenancy Support Program	Sapp	+h,A,w
1002	Weissman & Sirota	Reductions Certain Taxpayers Income Tax Liability	LAW	+f,H,L
1009	Bernett	Update Div of Housing Funct & Local Dev	Gov	+h,e,l,w
1019	Hooton	Mod to Regulations of Factory Built Structures	Gov	+h
1028	Bird and Rich	Annual Public Report Affordable Housing	Slg	+h,i,C,w
1054	Jackson	Housing Public Benefit Verification Requirement	LAW	+C,y,h,r,l,e,w,T,N,v,W,S,z
1105	Kennedy	Low-Income Utility Payment Assistance Contributions	Happ	+E,C,a,h,w,s,z
1117	Lontine & Gonzales-Gutierrez	Local Gov Authority Promote Affordable Housing Units	Gov	+C,h,W,a,y,r,e,x,l,p,T,N,v,s,S,R
1121	Jackson & Jodeh	Residential Tenancy Procedures	S2nd	+C,h,y,r,e,l,w,p,W,s,S
1134	Ricks	Report Tenant Rent Payment Info to Credit Agencies	Happ	+w
1194	Tipper & Ricks	Immigration Legal Defense Fund	S	+l,m,f,W,w,C,c,v,a,h,i
1198	Jodeh	Health Care Billing Requirement for Indigent Persons	S	+C,c,W,a,R,A,h,t
1214	Weissman	Record Sealing Collateral Consequences Reduction	S	+i,C,r
1220	Froelich	Child Support Commission Recommendations	Gov	+C
1222	Valdez A & Van Winkle	Regulation of Family Child Care Homes	Gov	+R,y,W,C,z
1232	Roberts & Jodeh	Standardized Health Benefit Plan Colorado Option	S	+c,r,C,y,g,x,w
1264	Sullivan & Young	Funds Workforce Dev Increase Work Skills	Hbl	+C
1270	Exum & Caraveo	Approp to DHS for SNAP Employment and Training	Shhs	+C,r
1271	McCluskie & Jodeh	DOLA Innovative Affordable Housing Strategies	Sapp	+w,e
1277	Valdez D & Will	Eligible Recipients for Final Disposition Expenses	S2nd	
1304	Sirota & Garnett	Early Childhood System	Hed	+y,z
1311	Sirota & Weissman	Income Tax	Hfin	+f,b,z,y,C,a

### \*Committees

S = Senate	ed = Education	jud = Judicial	te = Transportation & Energy
H = House	ene = Energy + Environment	lg = Local Government	tlg = Transportation and Local Government
ag = Agriculture	fin = Finance	pbh = Public & Behavioral Health	
app = Appropriations	hhs = Health & Human Services	sa = State Affairs	
bl = Business	hi = Health Insurance		

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

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

To read the text of any bill or its fiscal impact or its current status, go to [www.leg.colorado.gov](http://www.leg.colorado.gov). Legislator contact information is also at [www.leg.colorado.gov](http://www.leg.colorado.gov) For questions, corrections, more information, or to add your organization's positions to the list, contact Chaer Robert [crobert@cclponline.org](mailto:crobert@cclponline.org)

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## 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 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 vendors 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. Immigrants without work authorizations, under SB233, would become eligible for 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 one-year 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.