

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2.10.20



➤ Politics at the Capitol

This week at the Capitol we began to see some cracks in the veneer of civility that had thus far covered both chambers. Debates dragged out a bit longer and final votes followed party lines a little more. The final deadline for the introduction of legislators' priority bills in the previous week meant that a slew of new legislation appeared this week, bringing the new total to 450 bills introduced. One of these, HB-1284, a Mental Health Colorado agenda bill, provides for a secure transportation alternative for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis. HB20-1139, Peer Support Professionals, another Mental Health Colorado agenda bill, passed its first committee hearing on Wednesday (2/5) in the House Public Health & Human Services Committee. The bill passed *unanimously* after over a dozen witnesses testified in support (and none in opposition). It's now awaiting a hearing by the House Finance Committee before moving on to Appropriations.



Lauren Snyder (Mental Health Colorado Staff) alongside Reps. Pelton and Caraveo and partners after HB-1139 "Peer Support Professionals" passed committee unanimously.

➤ Budget

The House tackled most of the departmental supplemental bills this week. These bills make mid-year adjustments to figures approved last spring through the regular budget process, allowing for more accuracy in some of the information impacting the budget such as caseload, student population, and cash funds revenues. There were 18 department supplemental bills and a handful of "orbital bills" in some way related to one or more of them. One in which Mental Health Colorado took particular interest was HB-1262, concerning appropriations for housing for people transitioning out of the criminal justice system. Unlike the other supplemental and orbital bills, which all received final passage on Thursday, HB-1262 was laid over until Monday to allow for further discussions due to concerns that the bill would negatively impact this program that

provides funding for housing for individuals with mental health and co-occurring conditions. With supplementals moving on to the Senate next week, the Joint Budget Committee has begun the early stages of their long figure-setting process, establishing figures that will ultimately appear in the FY '20-'21 budget, which will be introduced in March.

What's Coming

The House has a full calendar next week, both on the floor and in committees, suggesting there may be some long nights ahead. On Monday (2/10), the Energy & Environment Committee kicks off the week with



Miriam Estrada (Mental Health Colorado Staff) testifying in support of SB-106 "Consent To Shelter And Services By Homeless Youth."

a few oil and gas bills, which always generate plenty of interest. Then, on Thursday (2/13), the House State Affairs Committee will hear seven highly controversial bills on LGBTQ rights. Over on the Senate side, the Senate Appropriations Committee will take up the supplemental and orbital bills on Tuesday (2/11) morning,

making it likely that floor debate on those would occur on Wednesday (2/12) or Thursday (2/13) in the full Senate.

➤ New Bills

Bill #	Title
HB20-1233	Basic Life Functions in Public Spaces
HB20-1235	Colorado Department Of Education Support for Family Engagement Practices
HB20-1236	Health Care Coverage Easy Enrollment Program
HB20-1237	Medicaid Managed Care Assignment for Child Welfare
HB20-1238	Safe and Healthy Learning Environments for Students
HB20-1262	Housing Assistance Justice System Transition Money
HB20-1263	Eliminate Sub-minimum Wage Employment
HB20-1264	Health Care Contract Hospital System Carriers Providers
HB20-1270	One Parent Consent for Behavioral Health Services
HB20-1271	Repeal Red Flag and Amend 72-Hour Hold
HB20-1284	Secure Transportation Behavioral Health Crisis
SB20-156	Protecting Preventive Health Care Coverage
SB20-161	Pretrial Release

➤ This Week

Wednesday, February 12th:

- HB-1017 Substance Use Disorder Treatment In Criminal Justice System, Upon Adjournment in House Public Health and Human Services Committee
- SB-137 FERPA Waiver For Behavioral Health Services, Upon Adjournment in Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Thursday, February 13th:

- HB-1150 Repeal House Bill 19-1263 Penalties for Drug Possession at 1:30pm in House Judiciary Committee
- SB-145 Repeal Colorado Reinsurance program upon adjournment in Senate Finance Committee

Friday, February 14th:

- HB-1270 One Parent Consent for Behavioral Health Services, upon adjournment in House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
- HB-1237 Medicaid Managed Care Assignment for Child Welfare, upon adjournment in House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee

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