



Arapahoe County

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Board Summary Report

File #: 26-015

Agenda Date: 1/27/2026

Agenda #:

To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: Michelle Halstead, Director, Commissioners' Office

Prepared By:
Nico Johnson, Management Analyst, Commissioners' Office

Presenter: Ed Bowditch and Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch and Cassell Public Affairs

Subject:
1:00 PM *Legislative Update

Purpose and Request:

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on the status of Colorado's state legislative session, including potential impacts to Arapahoe County, and seek Board direction on legislative positions or specific advocacy activities.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Good Governance - Proactively advocate for the County's needs in legislative solutions.

Background and Discussion: As a constitutional subdivision of Colorado state government, Arapahoe County can only exercise those powers specifically expressed in statute or in the constitution. Arapahoe County contracts with Bowditch and Cassell Public Affairs for state advocacy activities. The Director of the Commissioners' Office coordinates federal and state intergovernmental relations, in partnership with the Director of Human Services, the County Attorney, the Director of Community Resources, the Director of Public Works and Development, and the Director of Public Health (staff legislative team).

Staff reviews proposed legislation through the lens of operational and fiscal impacts to the county, in the context of the County's legislative guide (attached for reference).

This week, the lobbyist team will provide updates on bills that could impact Arapahoe County as well as other topics deemed appropriate:

Bills with Position Recommendations

- HB26-1001: Housing Developments on Qualifying Properties (HOME Act)
- HB26-1033: Expanding the Colorado Cottage Foods Act
- HB26-1038: County Commissioner Redistricting
- HB26-1039: Adding Municipal Jails to County Jails' Oversight Responsibilities

Concepts for discussion

- Proposition 123 Adjustments

- Human Services Updates
- Workforce Development Updates
- Public Health Panel Presentation

Permissive/For Awareness:

- HB26-1008: Colorado Outdoor Opportunities Act
- HB26-1009: Colorado Mandatory Lethality Assessment
- HB26-1020: Colometric Field Drug Tests
- HB26-1030: Data Center & Utility Modernization
- HB26-1036: Local Taxes on Vacant Residential Property
- HB26-1041: Electronic Vehicle Records
- HB26-1048: Back to School Tax Holiday
- HB26-1053: Motor Vehicle Education Administration
- HB26-1054: Protections for Worker Safety
- HB26-1063: Treating People with Behavioral Health Disorders
- HB26-1064: Youthful Offender System Updates
- SB26-010: Agricultural Property Tax Definition
- SB26-001: Workforce Housing & Housing Tax Credit
- SB26-024: State & Local Unmanned Aircraft Regulations

Alternatives: The Board could decide to not move forward with staff recommendations.

Fiscal Impact: Please refer to the attached 2026 Internal Legislative Report.

Alignment with Strategic Implementation Strategies: N/A.

Staff Recommendation: Please refer to the attached reference documents.

Concurrence: The legislative team will be in attendance to answer any questions as needed.