



Legislative Report

New Bills as of February 12, 2025

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Aging bills

House Bill 25-1156: Make Senior Home Tax Valuation Reduction Permanent

Bill Summary: The bill extends an existing reduction in the valuation for assessment of qualified-senior primary residence real property (valuation reduction) that applies for only the 2025 and 2026 property tax years so that the valuation reduction is permanent. The bill also makes permanent the existing obligation of the state to annually reimburse local governments that levy property tax for the amount of property tax revenue lost due to the valuation reduction.

Sponsors: Lieder/Kolker

Status: House Finance

Fiscal Note: Unavailable at this time.

Recommended position: Support

Staff comments: At its January meeting, the DRCOG Board supported SB25-013, which extends the income tax credit created in 2024 for qualified seniors who don't claim the senior property tax exemption. This bill makes permanent the reduction in assessed value of a qualified-senior primary residence established in 2024 by SB24-233.

Legislative Policy: DRCOG supports property tax relief to help reduce a tax liability that especially burdens low-income seniors and older adults on fixed incomes.

House Bill 25-1162: Eligibility Redetermination for Medicaid Members

Bill Summary: The bill authorizes the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (state department) to seek federal authorization to:

- Extend the timeline for member reenrollment in the state medical assistance program (Medicaid) based on the financial eligibility for a member whose income is based solely on a fixed income source; and
- Verify a member's eligibility for reenrollment based on income and need at the same time.

The bill requires the state department to modify the questions asked to medical professionals when verifying a member's need for long-term services and supports and allows any licensed medical professional who has a bona fide physician-patient relationship with a member to complete the documentation necessary to verify a member's need for long-term services and supports.



The bill prohibits the state department from requiring new documentation for a member who transitions from receiving services in an institutional setting to receiving services in a home- and community-based setting and vice versa.

Sponsors: Feret/

Status: House Health & Human Services

Fiscal Note not available at this time.

Recommended position: Support

Staff comments: DRCOG case management and information/assistance staff have worked with clients who had qualified for Medicaid during COVID emergency declaration period but then lost their qualification after the declaration ended. Staff have observed the difficulties these clients have had in getting requalified. Staff believe this bill will help make the redetermination process more accessible and efficient.

Legislative Policy: DRCOG supports efforts to improve the quality of care and consumer protections for older adults and their caregivers.

Transportation bills

[Senate Bill 25-161](#): Transit Reform

Bill Summary: The bill makes changes to the Regional Transportation District (RTD) statutes with the purpose of improving the district's performance: authorize the RTD to enter into service partnership agreements; align with statewide climate goals; create worker retention goals; improve safety; create a ten-year strategic plan; increase data and information on its website; update its service policies and standards; notify DRCOG and the state of known service gaps; modernize its special fare programs; add nonvoting ex officio members to the RTD Board for DRCOG and the Colorado Department of Transportation. The bill creates a regional transportation district accountability committee. The bill also requires the Transportation Commission to develop and publish best practices and technical assistance materials concerning the creation of regional transportation authorities to increase funding for transit and to provide additional transit services within the state.

Sponsors: Winter & Jodeh/Lindstedt & Froelich

Status: Senate Transportation & Energy

Fiscal Note: Unavailable at this time.

Recommended position: Amend



Staff comments: 1) The bill directs the transportation commission to, by March 31, 2026, develop and publish best practices and technical assistance materials concerning the creation of RTAs to increase funding for transit and provide additional transit services within the state. Because of the need for jurisdictional support and ultimately voter approval for RTA funding measures, staff believes it is important to consider the breadth of regional transportation needs and the viability of success in exploring RTAs.

2) This bill requires RTD, working with DRCOG's Way to Go partnership, to conduct outreach for EcoPass sales. To spur increased ridership by EcoPass holders, DRCOG staff recommends RTD promote and bundle the optional purchase of "Guaranteed Ride Home" service, which provides taxi or Uber rides home at no charge to the passenger, in the event of unexpected emergencies.

3) Lastly, the bill provides for two non-voting ex officio directors on the RTD Board to include the executive director of CDOT or their designee and an individual appointed by DRCOG. For reasons of consistency, staff recommends that the DRCOG representative on the RTD Board be the executive director or their designee. This would also be consistent with RTD and CDOT membership on the DRCOG Board.

Legislative Policy: DRCOG supports legislation that reinforces collaboration between state and regional transportation agencies and recognizes their respective roles, responsibilities and interests. DRCOG supports a strong role for MPOs placing them on equal footing with CDOT and regional transit agencies in selecting projects to be funded consistent with regional transportation plans to ensure that local, regional and state transportation needs are addressed in a coordinated and cooperative manner.

Housing bills

[House Bill 25-1198](#): Regional Planning Roundtable Commission

Bill Summary: The bill creates the Regional Planning Roundtable Commission (commission) within the Department of Local Affairs. The commission is a 15-member board with members who serve 2-year terms. The purposes of the commission include:

- Assisting local governments in complying with statutory housing, land use, or other planning requirements;
- Assisting local governments in accessing state and federal resources and technical assistance for complying with statutory housing, land use, or other planning requirements.
- In cooperation with local governments, creating, managing, and revising regions as necessary for the purpose of establishing a regional roundtable to address regional housing, land use, or other planning challenges and opportunities; and
- Assisting local governments in establishing a regional roundtable to address regional housing, land use, or other planning challenges and opportunities.



The bill allows money in the Housing Needs Planning Technical Assistance Fund to be used for the planning, establishment, and implementation of the commission.

Sponsors: Froelich & Brown/Winter

Status: House Transportation, Housing & Local Government

Fiscal Note: Unavailable at this time.

Recommended position: Amend

Staff comments: 1) The 15-member commission includes one seat for various statewide local government organizations, including a seat representing regional councils of governments. Staff is concerned the references in the bill to "unified planning framework" and "common planning framework" are vague, though they're only in the declaration. The bill language introduces a new, undefined term, "integrated framework".

2) In the bill language, "create, manage and revise regions as necessary" is also vague and would be done in cooperation with local governments, not existing regional agencies. Staff recommends exploring with the bill sponsors the appropriateness of creating regions that may overlap existing regional planning agencies and MPOs.

2) Staff is also concerned about the limited funding already appropriated to assist local governments with technical assistance being tapped for another purpose of implementing this commission.

Legislative Policy: DRCOG supports those efforts that contribute to the achievement of Metro Vision's regional outcomes and encourages state and regional entities to align their policies and investment decisions with Metro Vision and other regional agreements to advance shared objectives. DRCOG may support or oppose legislative proposals based on their potential to impact the region's ability to achieve Metro vision outcomes and the associated performance measures, targets and action elements.

