



# DRCOG Legislative Report

## Status of Bills, as of March 12, 2025

Rich Mauro, Director of Legislative Affairs

If you need digital accessibility assistance, submit a request at [drcog.org/access](https://drcog.org/access) or call 303-455-1000. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

# Contents

DRCOG Legislative Report .....	1
Status of Bills, as of March 12, 2025.....	1
Transportation bills.....	3
House Bill 25-1007: Concerning Paratransit Services .....	3
House Bill 25-1044: Local Funding for Vulnerable Road User Protection.....	3
House Bill 25-1046: Increase Maximum Number of Transportation Planning Regions .....	4
Senate Bill 25-030: Increase Transportation Mode Choice Reduce Emissions .....	4
Senate Bill 25-161: Transit Reform .....	6
Aging bills.....	6
House Bill 25-1022: Qualified Medication Administration Personnel.....	6
House Bill 25-1156: Make Senior Home Tax Valuation Reduction Permanent .....	7
House Bill 25-1162: Eligibility Redetermination for Medicaid Members .....	7
Senate Bill 25-013: Senior Housing Income Tax Credit Extension.....	8
Housing bill .....	9
House Bill 25-1198: Regional Planning Roundtable Commission.....	9



## Transportation bills

### [House Bill 25-1007](#): Concerning Paratransit Services

**Bill Summary:** Requires any political subdivision of the state, public entity, or nonprofit corporation that provides paratransit services to establish by January 1, 2026, a plan to communicate information and provide paratransit services during emergencies; ensure fare collection technology that is comparable to regular or fixed route services; consult with affected community members and conduct an impact analysis before reducing a paratransit service area. Creates a 16-member paratransit task force, including a DRCOG member, to meet at least three times in 2025 to study and make recommendations on the standardization of and best practices for paratransit services.

**Sponsors:** Froelich & Valdez/ Winter F. & Simpson

**Current Status:** House Floor

### [Fiscal Note for House Bill 25-1007](#)

**Position:** Amend

**Staff comments:** May apply to and create a burden on local agencies and small non-profits, some of whom receive grant funding through DRCOG's Area Agency on Aging Human Services Transportation program or 5310 program for older adult and other populations. While it may not affect DRCOG directly, we should make sure the bill clearly distinguishes paratransit services from our demand-responsive transportation services.

**Legislative Policy:** DRCOG supports adequate funding for providing transportation services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. DRCOG also supports a system that ensures more and better transportation services are provided to older adults and vulnerable populations.

### [House Bill 25-1044](#): Local Funding for Vulnerable Road User Protection

**Bill Summary:** Authorizes a local government or TABOR exempt enterprise created by a local government to impose local weight-based motor vehicle registration fees to fund local transportation system strategies that improve safety for vulnerable road users.

**Sponsors:** Boesenecker/Winter F. & Cutter

**Status:** Postponed Indefinitely (House Transportation, Housing and Local Government)

### [Fiscal Note for House Bill 25-1044](#)



**Position:** Support

**Staff comments:** Enables, but does not require, action by local governments.

**Legislative Policy:** DRCOG supports measures to improve safety for users of alternative modes, especially pedestrians and bicyclists, including efforts to improve the safety of the traveling public – drivers, transit riders, pedestrians and bicyclists.

### **House Bill 25-1046: Increase Maximum Number of Transportation Planning Regions**

**Bill Summary:** Increases the maximum number of transportation planning regions (TPR) of the state from 15 to 16. This increase in the maximum number of transportation planning regions results in the potential membership of the statewide transportation advisory committee also increasing by one member, from 17 to 18 members.

**Sponsors:** Richardson & Pelton

**Status:** Postponed Indefinitely (House Transportation, Housing and Local Government)

#### **Fiscal Note for House Bill 25-1046**

**Position:** Oppose

**Staff comments:** DRCOG is currently one of 15 existing TPRs and one of 17 members of the STAC. That means that although the DRCOG TPR includes 57.7% of the state's population, it has 5.9% of the STAC representation. The result of this bill would be to further reduce DRCOG's representation on STAC.

**Legislative Policy:** DRCOG supports legislation to ensure that representation on the Transportation Commission reflects approximately equal populations based on the most recent population census.

### **Senate Bill 25-030: Increase Transportation Mode Choice Reduce Emissions**

**Bill Summary:** The bill requires the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), no later than October 31, 2025, to present a statewide mode choice assessment to the Transportation Legislation Review Committee (TLRC), the Transportation Commission, and the Colorado Energy Office, which assessment must include recommendations for targets for 2030, 2035, 2040, 2045, and 2050. CDOT, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and transit providers that provide public transit to a population of 100,000 or more.



No later than June 1, 2026, CDOT must adopt rules establishing mode choice targets. No later than October 31, 2026, and every 3 years thereafter, CDOT, in coordination with the MPOs, must present a report to the TLRC on the mode choice targets and the entities' plans to implement the mode choice targets (mode choice implementation plans). No later than December 31, 2026, and every 5 years thereafter, CDOT, MPOs, subject transit providers, and local governments with a population of 25,000 individuals or more must each prepare a mode choice implementation plan, which must include certain information about the mode choice targets, a multimodal transportation gaps summary, and an analysis of certain projected greenhouse gas emissions. State funds may be available for the development of those plans.

**Sponsors:** Winter & Hinrichson/Froelich

**Status:** Senate Transportation and Energy

**Fiscal Note:** Unavailable at this time.

**Position:** Amend

**Staff comments:** Would require additional effort for DRCOG where the timing for required implementation plan does not align with federal requirements for regional transportation plans. Sponsors should change the requirement so that implementation plans be developed in conjunction with federally-required RTP for the MPO.

The required multimodal transportation gaps summary is both unclear and onerous and does not work in the context of overlapping MPOs, transit providers, and subject local governments. Is the transit agency going to identify gaps in pedestrian and bicycle networks? Is a local government going to identify gaps in the transit network? What constitutes a “gap”? The effort to define the enormous number of potential “projects” to fill gaps and estimating their costs is unreasonable, particularly at the regional scale.

Appreciate the effort to fund the required implementation plans, but 1) DRCOG’s allocation of MMOF funds has been fully allocated through 2027, so resources are not available to fund the plans to meet the 12/31/26 deadline, and 2) further reduces available MMOF funds to implement multimodal improvements.

**Legislative Policy:** DRCOG supports legislation that promotes efforts to fund, maintain and expand a multimodal transportation system. DRCOG also supports measures to improve safety for users of alternative modes, especially pedestrians and bicyclists. DRCOG supports state investment in regional programs that promote transportation demand management efforts, including coordinated regionwide efforts like the Way to Go partnership between DRCOG and eight transportation management associations (TMA) that promote and encourage adoption of non-single-occupant-vehicle travel options.



## **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:**

**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.

## **Aging bills**

### **House Bill 25-1022: Qualified Medication Administration Personnel**

**Bill Summary:** For the purpose of determining workers who are qualified to work in an assisted living residence, current law includes in its definition of "qualified medication administration personnel" (QMAP) an individual who has passed a competency evaluation administered by an approved training entity on or after July 1, 2017. The bill adds to this definition an individual who has passed a competency evaluation administered by the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) before July 1, 2017.

**Sponsors:** Espenozza and McCormick/ Michaelson Jenet



**Status:** Passed Both Chambers

### **Fiscal Note for House Bill 25-1022**

**Position:** Support

**Staff comments:** CDPHE used to do the testing for the QMAP program and then stopped. When the regulations were changed, it only included language that said, “administered by an approved training entity”, which technically does not include CDPHE since they no longer are an approved “training entity”. This bill cleans up the language.

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

### **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 Floor

### **Fiscal Note for House Bill 25-1162**

**Recommended position:** Support

**Staff comments:** DRCOG staff who work with in case management and information/assistance have worked with people who had qualified for Medicaid during COVID emergency declaration period but then lost their qualification after the declaration ended. Staff have observed these people having difficulties getting requalified. Staff believes 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.

### **Senate Bill 25-013: Senior Housing Income Tax Credit Extension**

**Bill Summary:** Extends a refundable income tax credit (established by HB24-1052) that is available for the income tax years commencing on January 1, 2022, and January 1, 2024, so that the credit is also available for the income tax years commencing on January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026. Credit is for a qualifying senior who is: 65 years or older; has federal adjusted gross income (AGI) less than or equal to \$75,000 for a single return or \$125,000 for a joint return; and has not claimed the senior property tax exemption for that year.





The amount of the credit for both types of filers is: \$800 for a return with federal AGI that is \$25,000 or less. For every \$500 of federal AGI above \$25,000, the amount of the credit is reduced by \$8. A taxpayer who also qualifies for a property tax and rent assistance grant or heat assistance grant is eligible to receive the full amount of the credit.

**Sponsors:** Mullica/ Marshall & Joseph

**Current Status:** Senate Appropriations

### **Fiscal Note for Senate Bill 25-013**

**Position:** Support

**Staff comments:** The DRCOG Board supported HB24-1052, which created the credit.

**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.

## **Housing bill**

### **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:** Oppose

**Staff comments:** 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. However, the bill language introduces a new, undefined term, "integrated framework". In the bill language, "create, manage and revise regions as necessary" is more vague and would be done in cooperation with local governments, not existing regional agencies.

**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.

