

## **2026 DRCOG LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP**

### **May 11, 2026**

During the Second Regular Session of the 75<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the DRCOG Board took official positions on 11 bills. DRCOG staff and lobbyists actively monitored and lobbied these bills, including seeking specific amendments to the bills where appropriate and providing input to legislative sponsors, committees and staff.

These bills were of special interest because of an identified effect on the regional programs administered by DRCOG or member governments. DRCOG staff and lobbyists also monitored and, in some cases, provided input and advice on the Long Appropriations Bill (House Bill 26-1410) and over 60 other bills for potential effect on DRCOG, its programs or its members.

The most significant pieces of legislation for DRCOG are summarized below. A final status report with more detail on all the bills on which official positions were taken is attached.

### **Transportation Bills**

**State Budget.** As the General Assembly convened, it faced the challenge of balancing the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget with a revenue shortfall estimated between \$1.0 and \$1.5 billion. This came after having to fill a \$1.2 billion hole in the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget, with actions that included taking \$71.4 million from the Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund (MMOF), specifically the portion of the fund that goes to local projects.

This year it happened again. With [House Bill 26-1398](#), which reduces the local share of the Retail Delivery Fee from 85% to 70%, and [House Bill 26-1399](#) eliminating the \$10.5 million transfer from the MMOF. Resistance to this from DRCOG, CML and CCI unfortunately was unable to stop the transfer completely but did lead to the bill being amended to suspend the transfer for three years.

**Regional Transportation District.** Last session, [Senate Bill 25-161](#) made changes to the Regional Transportation District (RTD) statutes with the purpose of improving the district's performance, including directing RTD to increase ridership levels across the district. It also created the Regional Transportation District Accountability Committee to make recommendations concerning governance structure and compensation of the board and executive leadership; paratransit services within RTD; representation of local governments and state agencies within RTD; and labor and workforce standards and workforce retention.

This session, [Senate Bill 26-150](#) passed, after much debate and many amendments, with provisions to implement certain recommendations of the accountability committee. Of specific interest to DRCOG and its local government members, the bill includes a provision for the governor to appoint one member of the board from a list of nominees

provided by DRCOG (the introduced bill had it at two appointees). DRCOG must follow a process for providing the governor with the list of nominees prior to the November 2028 general election. The list must contain “at least three qualified nominees”. DRCOG shall consider and give preference to individuals that have experience and background in public finance, transit operations, transit agency programs serving disproportionately impacted communities, and “land use and multimodal transportation planning, such as transit-oriented development, regional planning, or urban and rural mobility”.

DRCOG also must “make reasonable efforts to ensure that the nominees reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of the district’s ridership and service area and that the nominee list includes individuals from diverse racial, cultural, disability, and gender backgrounds and individuals representing both urban and suburban communities within the district”.

Finally, the bill contains a provision requiring RTD to provide to the legislature “a report containing responses to and the district’s implementation timeline of all recommendations made to the district by the 2025-2026 Regional Transportation District Accountability Committee, created in section 24-38.5-124, as it existed prior to its repeal on July 1, 2026.”

**Other Bills.** DRCOG also took positions supporting two Aging-related bills. [House Bill 26-1107](#), which provides disclosure requirements for dementia care facilities has been signed by the governor. [House Bill 26-1018](#) would have required the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to conduct a study of transition services (from nursing homes to community based care) provided through the state’s Medicaid program but failed to pass.

DRCOG also took positions on two Housing-related bills. DRCOG opposed [House Bill 26-1001](#), which requires local governments to allow affordable housing on qualifying properties owned by certain non-profit organizations, school districts, state colleges or universities, housing authorities, or a transit district or transportation authority on parcels of land under five acres. DRCOG supported [Senate Bill 26-001](#), which allows a county to spend property tax revenue in its general fund for housing authorities and workforce housing and sell real property, including public buildings, for the development of affordable housing, or housing identified in a housing needs report. The bill also permits a governmental entity to transfer the middle-income housing tax credit to any taxpayer. Both bills have been signed by the governor.