

BOARDUPDATE



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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY (as of January 18, 2017)

This legislative summary lists the status of all legislation that the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) supports, opposes or monitors during the 2016 legislative session, as of January 18, 2017. For additional information, contact Rich Mauro, senior legislative analyst, at 303-480-6778. The DRCOG Legislative Policy Statement as adopted by the Board of Directors states, in part:

DRCOG's legislative activity will be generally focused on the following types of issues:

- (1) Proposals of special significance to the Denver region, or which would have a unique effect upon local governments in this region;
- (2) Proposals that affect DRCOG as an agency or would affect one or more of its programs; and
- (3) Legislation to implement DRCOG special task force recommendations. Support for or opposition to a bill or legislative funding measure will be given, and be subject to reassessment, according to a bill's or measure's consistency with DRCOG's adopted principles and plans.

Bill No. / Sponsor	Short Title / Bill Summary	Status	Staff Comments	DRCOG Position / Legislative Policy
AGING BILLS				
SB17-011 Lambert/ Lawrence	Study Transportation Access for People With Disabilities The bill creates a technical demonstration forum to study and document how advanced technologies can improve transportation access for people with disabilities.	Senate Health and Human Services	To demonstrate the transportation access needs of people with disabilities in both urban and rural areas of the state, the forum is directed to study the transportation access needs of people with disabilities in El Paso and Teller counties and explore technological and transportation business solutions that could increase transportation access for people with disabilities in those areas.	Monitor DRCOG supports the following: A system that effectively and efficiently coordinates the resources and delivery of transportation services between providers, the federal government, counties, the Regional Transportation District and the state; increased funding for transportation services for older adults and persons with disabilities; and increased state funding for Medicaid transportation services for older adults and individuals with disabilities.
TRANSPORTATION BILLS				
HB17-1018 Mitsch Bush & Liston/ Gardner	Extend Voter Approval Window for Regional Transportation Authority Mill Levy Current law authorizes a regional transportation authority to seek voter approval for a uniform mill levy of up to five mills on all taxable property within its territory, but the authorization is scheduled to repeal on Jan. 1, 2019. The bill extends the authorization until Jan. 1, 2029.	House Transportation and Energy	This bill was introduced last session but failed to pass. DRCOG supported the bill.	Monitor DRCOG supports legislation that promotes efforts to create and fund a multimodal transportation system. DRCOG supports funding for programs that provide transportation for "access to jobs" for low-income workers who cannot afford to live near where they work, and for safe routes to schools.

Bill No. / Sponsor	Short Title Bill Summary	Status	Staff Comments	DRCOG Position Legislative Policy
HB17-1031	Hearings On Transportation Commission Districts (recommended by the Transportation Legislation Review Committee)			Monitor
Carver & Mitsch Bush/Todd	The bill requires the Transportation Legislation Review Committee to meet five times before Nov. 15, 2017, once in each geographic quadrant of the state and once in the Denver metropolitan area, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make available to meeting attendees the 2016 Legislative Council staff research study of changes to the state transportation commission districts since the boundaries of the districts were last redrawn in 1991; and • Offer opportunities to members of the public to express their opinions regarding the districts or the research study and offer comments and suggestions regarding whether the districts should be modified, programming, and planning. 	House Transportation and Energy	The 2016 report was prepared with the cooperation of the Colorado Department of Transportation as required by House Bill 16-103. This bill is the response of the Transportation Legislation Review Committee to get public input. DRCOG had a position of "actively monitor" for a similar bill last year.	DRCOG supports legislation that reinforces collaboration between state and regional transportation agencies and recognizes their respective roles, responsibilities and interests.

OTHER BILLS

SB17-045	Construction Defect Claim Allocation of Defense Costs			Monitor
Grantham & Williams A./ Duran & Wist	In a construction defect action in which more than one insurer has a duty to defend a party, the bill requires the court to apportion the costs of defense, including reasonable attorney fees, among all insurers with a duty to defend. An initial order apportioning costs must be made within 90 days after an insurer files its claim for contribution, and the court must make a final apportionment of costs after entry of a final judgment resolving all of the underlying claims against the insured. An insurer seeking contribution may also make a claim against an insured or additional insured who chose not to procure liability insurance for a period of time relevant to the underlying action. A claim for contribution may be assigned and does not affect any insurer's duty to defend.	Senate Business, Labor and Technology	This bill (sponsored by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House) is an attempt to reduce the insurance costs associated with owner-occupied affordable housing projects. The Metro Mayors Caucus had a discussion about the bill with the speaker at its annual retreat where it was noted the bill does not address concerns with litigation issues.	DRCOG supports an adequate supply and mix of housing options, including actions to provide more accessible and obtainable housing options for older adults.
SB17-057	Colorado Healthcare Affordability and Sustainability Enterprise			Monitor
Guzman/	The bill creates the Colorado Healthcare Affordability and Sustainability Enterprise (enterprise) as a replacement for the current hospital provider fee.	Senate Finance	The new enterprise would be exempt from Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) and so long as it qualifies as a TABOR-exempt enterprise, fee revenue does not count against either the TABOR state fiscal year spending limit or the Referendum C cap, the higher statutory state fiscal year spending limit established after the voters of the state approved Referendum C in 2005. This would make additional revenues available for the state budget.	No specific Board policy on the hospital provider fee issue but there are Board policies in support of increased funding for transportation and aging services.