Good afternoon, CSOMS Members,

Below is your weekly legislative update that includes a link to your detailed bill matrix of all the bills that we are tracking for CSOMS. This update also includes highlights from this week at the General Assembly.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions!

Have a great weekend,

Edie and Emily

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**WEEKLY “CALL TO ACTION”**

**BILL MATRICES**

* [**Detailed Matrix:**](https://coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-analysis/6284/2022/0)  Detailed view of bills, with hyperlinks to more information – bill versions, fiscal notes, engaged lobbyists, history, etc.

***Note that these matrices are confidential work products of CSOMS and are not intended to be shared beyond your organizational leadership.*** These are dynamic links with the most up-to-date information on the bills as they move through the process and can be accessed from any internet source. These will be your exclusive hyperlinks for the session, we encourage you to bookmark them for future use.

**Bills of Note to CSOMS:**

1. [**HB22-1095, Physician Assistant Collaboration Requirements**](http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022A/bills/2022a_1095_01.pdf)**, Reps. Lontine and Will & Sen. Winter**

**What the Bill Does**: The bill modifies the relationship between a physician assistant and a physician or podiatrist by removing the requirement that a physician assistant be supervised by a physician or podiatrist. Instead:  
  • A physician assistant who has completed fewer than 3,000 hours of post-graduate clinical practice experience or who is beginning practice in a new specialty must enter into a collaborative plan with a physician; and  
  • A physician assistant who has completed fewer than 3,000 hours of post-graduate clinical practice must enter into a collaborative plan with a podiatrist before practicing podiatry.

A physician assistant who has completed 3,000 or more practice hours or, for a physician assistant practicing a new specialty, has completed 2,000 practice hours in the new specialty and at least 3,000 total practice hours, is no longer required to maintain a collaborative plan and is instead required to consult with and refer to appropriate members of the physician assistant's health-care team based on a patient's condition; the physician assistant's education, experience, and competencies; and the standard of care. The bill specifies the requirements of the collaborative plan.

**Status:** Introduced and assigned to House Health and Insurance, but not bill hearing at this time on calendar

1. [**HB22-1115, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**](http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022A/bills/2022a_1115_01.pdf)**, Reps. Soper and Kipp & Sens. Pettersen and Jaquez Lewis**

**What the Bill Does:** The bill:  
  • Clarifies that every prescriber must query the prescription drug monitoring program (program) prior to filling a prescription for an opioid or benzodiazepine (section 1 of the bill);  
  • Requires each prescriber and pharmacist to attest that they have registered and are maintaining a user account with the program and that they are aware of the penalties for noncompliance (sections 2 through 8);  
  • Allows a practitioner or pharmacist who is registered with the program to authorize an unlimited number of designees to access the program on the practitioner's or pharmacist's behalf if the designees meet the eligibility criteria and to register those designees in a group designee user account. The practitioner or pharmacist is required to approve, maintain, and track the identifying information of each authorized designee in the group designee user account (section 9).  
  • Requires the division of professions and occupations (division) to solicit applications from public and private integration organizations and, on or before January 1, 2023, approve qualified integration organizations that practitioners and pharmacists may use to integrate the program with patient electronic medical records (section 9); and  
  • Requires the division to implement a process whereby practitioners and pharmacists may apply for and receive reimbursement from the division for all or a portion of the costs of integrating the program with electronic medical records (section 9).

**Status:** Introduced and assigned to House Health and Insurance; no hearing date on calendar at this time

1. [**SB22-058, Dental Hygienists Peer Health Assistance Program**](http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022A/bills/2022a_058_01.pdf)**, Sen. Simpson**

**What the Bill Does:** The bill creates a peer health assistance program (program) for dental hygienists to assist dental hygienists with physical, emotional, or psychological problems that may be detrimental to the dental hygienist's ability to practice dental hygiene.  
The program is funded by a fee each dental hygienist is required to pay upon renewal of the dental hygienist's license.

**Status:** Introduced and assigned to Senate Health and Human Services; no hearing date on calendar at this time.

1. [**SB220-027, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**](http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022A/bills/2022a_027_01.pdf)**, Reps. Michaelson Jenet and Larson & Smallwood and Rodriquez**

**What the Bill Does**: **Legislative Audit Committee.** **Sections 1 and 2** of the bill clarify that each licensed health-care practitioner must query the prescription drug monitoring program (program) prior to filling a prescription for every opioid or benzodiazepine.  
**Section 3** requires the group tasked with developing a strategic plan to reduce prescription drug misuse to also make recommendations to the executive director of the department of regulatory agencies concerning balancing the use of the program as a health-care tool with  
enforcement of the requirements of the program.

**Status:** Introduced and assigned to Senate Health and Human Services; next action 2/14 at 9:00 am on Senate Floor

1. [**SB22-058, Dental Hygienists Peer Health Assistance Program**](http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022A/bills/2022a_058_rn2.pdf)**, Sens. Simpson and Rep. McCormick**

**What the Bill Does:** The bill creates a peer health assistance program (program) for dental hygienists to assist dental hygienists with physical, emotional, or psychological problems that may be detrimental to the dental hygienist's ability to practice dental hygiene.  
The program is funded by a fee each dental hygienist is required to pay upon renewal of the dental hygienist's license.

**Status:** Introduced and assigned to House and Senate Health and Human Services; next hearing is TBD

1. [**SB22-097, Whistleblower Protection Health & Safety**](http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022A/bills/2022a_097_01.pdf)**, Reps. Herod and Sullivan & Sens. Pettersen and Rodriguez**

**What the Bill Does:** Current law provides whistleblower protections for workers who raise a reasonable concern about health or safety related to a public health emergency. The bill expands the protection to all health and safety concerns regardless of whether there is a declared public health emergency.

**Status:** Introduced and assigned to Senate Business, Labor and Technology; no hearing on calendar at this time

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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM UNDER THE DOME**

* **Lawmakers hitting their stride**

What is perhaps the top legislative news story of the week doesn’t involve a bill – at least not It was an active week at the Colorado Capitol, with lots of bills on the move in committees and on the House and Senate floors.

But lots of those bills were fairly routine, and perhaps of greater interest were measures that died, including a proposal to reform metropolitan districts, a Democratic environmental bill and a GOP measure to roll back some recent bail reforms. (See article links below for details.)

The House did finish the week on a substantive note with a long and lively floor debate over House Bill 22-1095, which would give physician assistants greater autonomy from supervising doctors. The measure received preliminary approval.

And there were some significant new bills introduced this week (see next section).

Looking ahead, new Senate President Steve Fenberg told reporters this week that the first bills proposing how to spend the state’s big pile of federal pandemic relief funds could start surfacing within a week.

Friday was the 52nd day of the 120-day session.

**New bills of note this week**

Perhaps the most interesting news of the week was some key bills that were introduced.

Those include Democratic-sponsored House Bill 22-1279, which “declares that every individual has a fundamental right to use or refuse contraception; every pregnant individual has a fundamental right to continue the pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion; and a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative

rights under the laws of the state,” in the words of the bill summary.

An important but less incendiary new measure is House Bill 22-1278, which would reorganize and combine a variety of agencies into a single Behavioral Health Administration within the Department of Human Services. This was a key recommendation from a recent gubernatorial task force.

Behavioral health is one of two big reorganization issues facing the 2022 session, the other being launch of the Department of Early Childhood.

Crime and public safety have shaped up as partisan issues this year, but there is a new bipartisan bill on this. Senate Bill 22-145 would set up three new crime prevention and police recruitment and training grant programs. The price tag is about $13 million.

Another, solely Democratic “safe neighborhoods” measure, Senate Bill 22-001, proposes a $10 million grant program and was passed out of committee this week.

Also introduced this week was Senate Bill 22-139, which would make Juneteenth a state holiday.

As of Friday morning 424 bills had been introduced.

**The week at JBC**

The Joint Budget Committee had something of a rocky week, what with meeting starts delayed by floor action and members presenting bills in other committees and by tight deadline pressures on committee staff.

The panel also continued to have problems making up its collective mind, and the number of agency budget requests delayed for later action climbed to 44.

But the committee did get through most of 2022-23 figure setting for the governor’s office and the departments of public safety, revenue and labor. And members did seem to recover some of their footing on Thursday when they worked through the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, always one of the longest and most complicated figure-setting sessions.

Next week JBC will have more HCPF items to consider, not to mention higher education, capital construction and the Department of Human Services. The committee hopes to finish figure setting by March 18, but that deadline could slip.

As of the most recent update on Tuesday, 40 bills proposing $29 million in spending were pending in House Appropriations. On the Senate side 34 bills totaled $106 million.

Download the spreadsheet from this page - [https://leg.colorado.gov/publications/fiscal-note-reports](https://leg.colorado.gov/publications/fiscal-note-reports?utm_source=The%20Colorado%20Sun%20Newsletters&utm_campaign=1240f58a40-UNAFFILIATED_20220211_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_61e0bd63dc-1240f58a40-66958786&mc_cid=1240f58a40&mc_eid=e765e4b48d)

**News links:** *(Colorado Politics and The Post have pay walls. If you do not subscribe but need an article, let us know and we can get a copy.)*

**Notable stories of the week**

* Democrats move to protect women’s right to choose (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2022/03/04/colorado-legislature-abortion-rights-democrats/>
* Panel kills commuting alternatives bill (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/house-panel-votes-down-bill-requiring-businesses-to-provide-alternative-transport-for-workers/article_bb5bcf74-98f5-11ec-be2f-0ba137814340.html>
* Medicaid payments problems continue for HCPF (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2022/02/28/medicaid-claims-children-disabilities/>
* Anti-slow growth bill killed in committee (Sun) - <https://www.cpr.org/2022/03/01/anti-slow-growth-bill-fails-colorado-legislature/>

**Friday, March 4**

* Democrats move to protect women’s right to choose (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2022/03/04/colorado-legislature-abortion-rights-democrats/>
* Senate panel advances remedy for immigration consequences of guilty pleas (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/senate-panel-advances-remedy-for-immigration-consequences-of-guilty-pleas/article_144046e6-9b45-11ec-886a-cba0fde55dcc.html>
* Dems’ safe streets bill advances in committee (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/bill-addressing-crime-prevention-through-safer-streets-clears-first-committee/article_fe99702e-9b3f-11ec-ab6b-cb95162a3440.html>
* Some lawmakers balancing duties and family (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/colorados-citizen-legislature-grapples-with-parental-leaves/article_e0c6e5ca-9a60-11ec-9512-7bcbb4ce2b04.html>
* Committee kills GOP curriculum transparency bill (Chalkbeat) - <https://co.chalkbeat.org/2022/3/4/22961429/curriculum-transparency-controversial-topics-bill-defeated>

**Thursday, March 3**

* GOP bill on mandatory cash bail shot down (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/senate-panel-votes-down-mandatory-cash-bail-for-repeat-violent-offenders/article_1b55c4ea-9a84-11ec-81d2-ff6dcff4bd7f.html>
* Missing persons bill advances (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/colorado-senate-oks-changes-to-missing-person-investigations-targeting-marginalized-women/article_b1954ea8-9a7a-11ec-9c2d-a3b8c36a9fee.html>
* Polis backs Juneteenth holiday bill (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/gov-jared-polis-backs-bill-to-make-juneteenth-a-state-holiday/article_cad8d9f2-9a61-11ec-aa3f-3fe64bf36c07.html>
* Election worker protection bill advances (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2022/03/03/colorado-elections-workers-threats-doxxing-bill/>
* Free school meals bill draws a crowd (Chalkbeat) - <https://co.chalkbeat.org/2022/3/2/22959224/universal-free-school-meals-program-colorado-lawmakers-proposal-cost-concerns>

**Wednesday, March 2**

* Metro district reform bill killed (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/metro-district-reform-bill-dies-in-colorado-senate-committee/article_ff651a2a-99ec-11ec-bca5-0bf20c3e4bad.html>
* Time change bill on ice (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/stop-changing-the-dang-clocks-bill-to-end-daylight-saving-time-in-colorado-delayed/article_840ececc-99b3-11ec-a0ec-6b092c883ec9.html>
* Senate approves changes in professional licensing (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/senate-approves-bill-easing-professionals-ability-to-work-in-colorado/article_1a615d90-998c-11ec-9135-dfc06945548a.html>
* Bill would create pilot program of wildfire-detecting cameras (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/panel-advances-pilot-program-for-wildfire-detecting-cameras/article_3521d106-998b-11ec-8027-6769221c0509.html>

**Tuesday, March 1**

* Panel kills commuting alternatives bill (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/house-panel-votes-down-bill-requiring-businesses-to-provide-alternative-transport-for-workers/article_bb5bcf74-98f5-11ec-be2f-0ba137814340.html>
* House advances bill banning withholding of college transcripts (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/house-democrats-ok-banning-colleges-universities-from-withholding-diplomas-over-student-debt/article_417a0614-98d0-11ec-af42-eb6622a594aa.html>
* New Capitol COVID rules released (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/general-assembly-announces-new-rules-around-covid-protocols/article_6e4d36d2-98be-11ec-8a6f-c3347db3234a.html>
* Bill would broaden witness intimidation law (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/colorado-legislature-unanimously-oks-expansions-to-witness-intimidation-law/article_fa9ac67a-997e-11ec-a28f-fbedd5a467dd.html>
* Anti-slow growth bill killed in committee (Sun) - <https://www.cpr.org/2022/03/01/anti-slow-growth-bill-fails-colorado-legislature/>
* Security for elected officials debated (CPR) - <https://www.cpr.org/2022/03/02/colorado-secretary-of-state-jena-griswold-security-harassment/>
* Some Dems want to tweak gun possession law (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2022/03/02/colorado-gun-possession-laws/>
* Bill would require all teaching materials be posted online (Chalkbeat) - <https://co.chalkbeat.org/2022/3/2/22957470/curriculum-transparency-parent-rights-crt-colorado-bill>

**Saturday, Feb. 26 to Monday, Feb. 28**

* Newest senator sworn in (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/colorado-senate-swears-in-newest-member/article_a2e906c0-98bc-11ec-93ad-87511974f6ef.html>
* Explaining the proposed digital license plate (CO Politics) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/legislature/new-bill-could-bring-digital-license-plates-to-colorado/article_bbd23724-9803-11ec-9e00-d3af6e95afad.html>
* Medicaid payments problems continue for HCPF (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2022/02/28/medicaid-claims-children-disabilities/>
* Dueling election bills stack up (CPR) - <https://www.cpr.org/2022/02/28/colorado-elections-security-legislation-partisan-divide/>
* Bill would protect health workers (CPR) - <https://www.cpr.org/2022/02/28/after-a-vote-on-masks-cancel-culture-came-for-this-colorado-health-officials-license-lawmakers-are-responding/>