



Federal Stimulus Spending, Roads, Worker Rights

The Final Stretch.....

Workplace Harassment

The NCLA has been actively engaged in the debate and negotiations on the NCLA opposed Senate Bill 176, the [Protecting Opportunities and Worker's Rights Act](#). The bill was modestly improved by the Senate with the passage of Amendment [L.020](#) but other attempts to amend the bill to the satisfaction of the Colorado business community by Senate Republicans failed. Punitive damages for failure to provide training programs and allowing non-disclosure agreements were among the improvements but concerns remain regarding the inclusion of independent contractors to bring claims and the lack of inclusion of “severe or pervasive” harassment standard. We will continue to work with our business community partners to make improvements in the House.

Income Tax

The two exhaustive and voluminous measures regarding income tax in which the NCLA is opposed, HB 1312 [Insurance Premium Property Sales Severance Tax](#) and HB 1311- [Income Tax](#), brought filibustering to the House during a weekend session last week. Few modifications were made but the NCLA positioned a few amendments, including removing the modifications to the oil and gas severance tax netback, but majority sponsors rejected the amendments. On a positive note, the bill increases the business personal property tax exemption, but on balance, the bills are onerous. These bills will now move to the Senate side this week.

Federal Stimulus

During a Friday evening session in the Senate, the process began to spend the \$3.8 Billion in federal stimulus funds Colorado has at its disposal. SB 289 establishes a new state fund to formally receive the federal dollars and another three bills were passed to spend approximately \$1.4B of the available funds in the coming year. Interim committees will meet over the summer and fall to decide how best to spend the remaining funds.

NCLA has joined with our business partners across the state to urge that a portion of the available funds be used to backfill the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund to forestall the imposition of the UI Premium Tax Surcharge on all businesses.

Bill Number	Area of Spending	Dollar Amount
21-291	Provides grants to businesses and for investing in economic development opportunities in response to the negative impacts of the pandemic.	\$40 Million
21-289	Creates revenue loss restoration cash fund that will be the cash fund to pay for government services, including kindergarten through twelfth-grade public education, housing, state employees, asset maintenance, seniors, criminal justice, state parks, agriculture, and transportation infrastructure	\$1 Billion over three fiscal years
21-288	Creates the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – a cash fund that will maintain the balance of the federal stimulus funds that are not included in the \$380 million distribution for transportation infrastructure and other pandemic-related appropriations. This bill authorizes	\$3.4Billion

	the Governor to allocate up to \$300 million for federally permitted purposes. These funds must be spent by the end of 2026 and obligated by the end of 2024.	
21-286	Appropriates general funds to enhance, expand, and strengthen Medicaid-eligible home- and community-based services for older adults and people with disabilities.	\$225 Million

Health Care Public Option

During the 2nd reading on the Senate floor of HB 1232 – [Health Care Public Option](#), was modified marginally to address the amount of cost reductions from 20% to 15%, eliminated the penalties on health care specialists if they opted to not participate in the state’s mandated standardized plan and replaced the revocability of a hospital to a suspension for failure to comply. Other amendments to move the bill to a more agreeable position were unsuccessful. The bill continues to be laid over for 3rd reading in the Senate, but we anticipate passage this week in the Senate.

Transportation

Senate Bill 260, the “[Sustainability of the Transportation System](#)” bill passed the House on Friday on a preliminary vote with a recorded vote planned for Tuesday. The NCLA has taken an “amend” position on the measure as we have sought to make important improvements to the bill to assure no interference with the progress on North I-25 and the ability to fund and build cross regional corridors such as US 34, US 85 and US 287, among others. NCLA Board members Carl Maxey and Johnny Olson joined Sandra Hagen Solin to testify in the Senate Finance Committee.

Minority Leader and Loveland Representative Hugh McKean and Weld County Representative Tonya Van Beber carried NCLA amendments including an expansion of the scope of grandfather provisions secured in the Senate to protect North I-25 from unnecessary delays and interference allowable under sections of the bill. Greeley Representative Mary Young joined with our Republican members of the Northern Colorado delegation to support the amendment. Bill sponsor and Speaker of the House Ace Garnett, and proponents, rejected and opposed any and all amendments that didn't come from the environmental or BIPOC communities. The McKean/Van Beber amendments were defeated.

NCLA Tracking Report

On a bi-weekly basis, the NCLA Board reviews and considers its position on pending legislation. See the [NCLA 2021 Legislative Tracking Report](#) to list the measures thus far introduced that the NCLA is monitoring and upon which the NCLA will or has taken a position.