

Workforce Package and More Air Quality Measures

5 Weeks remain in 2022 Legislative Session with More Bills to Come

Air Quality Improvement Investments

Senate President Steve Fenberg (D-Boulder) introduced [Senate Bill 193 regarding "Air Quality Improvement Investments"](#). Another all encompassing measure, with spending over \$125M, the bill includes the following primary elements:

- Creates the \$25M "**industrial and manufacturing operations clean air grant program**" in the Colorado energy office to award grant money to private entities, local governments, and public-private partnerships for voluntary projects to reduce air pollutants from industrial and manufacturing operations.
- Creates the \$12M "**community access to electric bicycles grant program**" through which the office awards grant money to local governments and nonprofit organizations that administer or plan to administer a bike share program or an ownership program for the provision of electric bicycles in a community. There is also created a "community access to electric bicycles rebate program".
- Creates the \$15M "**diesel truck emissions reduction grant program**" through which the division of administration in the CDPHE awards grant money to certain private and public entities for decommissioning diesel trucks and replacing the trucks with newer model trucks.
- Creates the \$65M "**electrifying school buses grant program**" through which the department, with technical assistance from the office, awards grant money to school districts and charter schools to help finance the purchase and maintenance of electric-powered school buses, the conversion of fossil-fuel-powered school buses to electric-powered school buses, charging infrastructure, and upgrades for electric charging.
- infrastructure and the retirement of fossil-fuel-powered school buses.
- Updates the definition of federal act regarding the reference to the federal Clean Air Act.
- \$7M to the CDPHE to finance the aerial surveying of pollutants
- Other more technical additions for review

[Governor's Press Release about the "Climate Action" package](#) that he and legislative leaders are advancing, including:

- [SB22-193](#). Air Quality Improvement Investments
- [SB22-180](#). Programs To Reduce Ozone Through Increased Transit
- Anticipated, but not yet introduced, building energy codes measure by Colorado Energy Office and Rep. Bernett

GHG Reduction Bill Moves onto Senate Floor

Senate Bill 138, the Sen Hansen measure to reduce GHG with various approaches, passed out of the Sen Finance Committee yesterday. The NCLA board agreed to support the bill with specific

amendments to which the sponsor was agreeable. The bill was amended to address our outstanding concerns, including:

- Removing the 2028 mid point of the GHG reduction goals. ([L.010](#))
- Extending the deadline for the APCD to adopt GHG rules for the industrial/manufacturing sector from December 2022 to August 2023. ([L.018](#))
- Adds allowing insurance companies who report less than \$100M in its NAIC filing to participate in program (those over \$100M must participate). ([L.016](#))
- Clarifies the tax credit for purchase of electric small engine equipment ([L.011](#))

\$95M Workforce Package Introduced

A \$95M package of workforce development bills was introduced this week from recommendations from last year's HB21-1330 [Student Success and Workforce Revitalization Task Force](#). The Task Force was tasked with spending the available ARPA funds for workforce in the pandemic transition. [The task force report is here.](#)

The three measures include the following:

- [Senate Bill 22-192](#) would bolster students' ability to earn stackable credentials in high demand industries which are part of a sequence of credentials that people can accumulate over time in their pursuit of a degree. It would facilitate stackable credential pathways for at least five growing industries identified by the Colorado talent report by 2025.
- [House Bill 22-1350](#), a \$91 million investment in a regional talent development initiative grant program in the office of economic development to fund talent development initiatives across the state that meet regional labor market needs and specified grant program goals
- [House Bill 22-1349](#) creates a data collection system to monitor how different postsecondary pathways impact a student's career success. data measurements like employment outcomes for students, earnings, and how long it takes for students to recoup the cost of their education.

The NCLA will consider these measures during the April 7th Board meeting.

NCLA Tracking Report

On a bi-weekly basis, the NCLA Board reviews and considers its position on pending legislation. See the [NCLA 2022 Legislative Tracking Report](#) list the measures thus far introduced that the NCLA is monitoring and upon which the NCLA will or has taken a position.