





2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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Advocacy and influence

The Chamber & EDC acts as a catalyst in legislative and regulatory issues affecting Colorado Springs, advocating for business-friendly public policies and influencing economic development. The 2018 Colorado State Legislative Session marked another significant period of growth for our government affairs program, as we significantly increased our visibility and influence at the Capitol.

2018
90%

Success rate on positions taken by the Chamber & EDC

Bills of note to our region

- **HB18-1001** FAMILI Family Medical Leave Insurance Program (*Opposed*)
- **HB18-1067** Right to Rest (*Opposed*)
- **HB18-1095** Educator License Requirements Military Spouses (*Supported*)
- **HB18-1261** Colorado Arbitration Fairness Act (*Opposed*)
- **HB18-1262** Arbitration Services Provider Transparency Act (*Opposed*)
- **HB18-1266** Career Development Success Program Expansion (*Supported*)
- **HB18-1298** Colorado Secure Savings Plan (*Opposed*)
- **HB18-1316** Extend CDLE Skilled Worker Outreach, Recruitment & Key Training Grant Program (*Support*)
- **HB18-1340** Transfers of Money for State's Infrastructure (*Supported*)
- **HB18-1343** Veterans' Service to Career Program (*Supported*)
- **HB18-1368** Local Control of Minimum Wage (*Opposed*)
- **HB18-1377** Prohibit Seeking Salary Information Job Applicant (*Opposed*)
- **SB18-001** Transportation Infrastructure Funding (*Supported*)
- **SB18-066** Extend the Operation of the State Lottery Division (*Supported*)
- **SB18-086** Cyber Coding Cryptology for State Records (*Supported*)
- **SB18-196** Repeal Late Vehicle Registration Fee (*Opposed*)



721 Bills introduced



20 Active positions



12 Bills supported
*10 passed
2 postponed indefinitely*



8 Bills opposed
All were postponed indefinitely

2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Economic Development

Support policies to encourage growth and advocate for key industries, capital investment, high-quality jobs, reliable infrastructure, and a skilled workforce.



Business Climate

Promote business-friendly fiscal, labor, and regulatory policies.



Defense Development

Support local military installations' needs, guard against Base Realignment and Closure proceedings, and promote defense-related businesses.

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STAGE 1 POLICY PROPOSALS



Legislators propose policy by sponsoring written bills.

Bills can create new laws, amend existing laws, or repeal existing laws. Bills are numbered in the order they are introduced. Legislators are limited to five bills each, which must be submitted by certain deadlines.

Bills are assigned to one or more committees for review.

Committee legislators hear testimony from experts and interested parties. Bills may be amended, recommended for passage, referred to another committee, tabled for consideration later, or postponed indefinitely. Meetings are open to the public.

STAGE 2 REVIEW PROCESS

If a bill passes out of committee, it proceeds to the House or Senate floor for a second reading.

At this point, bills may be passed, amended and passed, defeated, postponed for another day, or returned to committee for more work. The bill then repeats the process in the other chamber.



Final vote occurs on third reading.



After a bill is passed by both the House and Senate, it is sent to the governor.

The governor may sign it into law, let it take effect without his or her signature, or veto the bill.

STAGE 3 BECOMING A LAW

Legislative landscape

With Republicans holding a single-seat majority in the Senate and Democrats a slim majority in the House, and Democratic Governor John Hickenlooper spending his last year in office, power was balanced and passing legislation required party members to work together. The split meant failure for a number of anti-business proposals:

- ▶ Creating a mandatory paid family and medical leave funded by employees and managed by a new state agency
- ▶ Discouraging arbitration between employers and employees
- ▶ Giving local governments authority to increase minimum wage above the state's
- ▶ Restricting the research of job applicants' salary histories
- ▶ Sending enforcement of equal pay laws to civil court, instead of the state Department of Labor and Employment

Legislators focused on addressing statewide transportation system needs, sustainably funding the Public Employees Retirement Association, and spending nearly \$1 billion dollars in unallocated state revenue. Both parties introduced a number of bills on their core policy issues, which we see every year. Most of these "message bills" died along party lines.

In addition to the 721 proposed laws - the most since 2004 - the General Assembly also grappled with the correct handling of sexual harassment charges against several members, and as a result, the House voted to expel one of its members for the first time in more than a century.

For more information about the Chamber & EDC's policy advocacy and legislative programs, contact Rachel Beck, vice president of government affairs, at rbeck@cscdc.com.



2018 Chamber & EDC Day at the Legislature
(Pictured: Senator Bob Gardner)

2018 Government Affairs Council

- **Chair:** Ray Nunn, Nunn Construction, Inc.
- **Vice chair:** Randy Case, Case International Co.
- Clarissa Arellano-Thomas, Pikes Peak Association of REALTORS®
- Kyle Blakely, Blakely + Company
- Sarah Brittain-Jack, Sarah B. Jack and Associates
- Justin Burns, Justin Burns Insurance Agency
- Abel Chavez, CenturyLink
- Shawn Clift, Bank of the San Juans
- Susan Edmondson, Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs
- Nancy Engle, UCHealth Memorial Health System
- Phill Emmert, Colorado Springs Auto Dealers Association
- David Ervin, The Resource Exchange
- Becky Fuller, Preferred Lending Partners
- Chelsea Gaylord, City of Colorado Springs
- Michael Gifford, Associated General Contractors of Colorado
- Josh Handley, El Paso County
- Chance Hill, Sherman + Howard
- Fletcher Howard, Colorado Springs Forward
- Dave Jeffrey, Colorado Advanced Manufacturing Association
- Jessica McMullen, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- Marla Novak, Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs
- Tony Przybyslawski, The Boeing Company
- Lynne Telford, Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado