



**2026 Legislative Session
Week in Review
2/13/2026**

A taste of debates to come

Supplemental bills, the mostly-technical measures that make mid-year adjustments to the state budget, usually breeze through floor consideration.

That was true for most of those bills considered by the House this week. But there were long and sometimes-emotional speeches about the bills for the departments of Corrections and Health Care Policy and Financing. Proposed increases in prison spending and Medicaid cuts are hot-button issues for many lawmakers.

The debates are expected to be even more intense when those issues come back in a few weeks during consideration of 2025-27 budget bills.

Before turning to supplementals, at the very end of last week, the House passed the first notable housing bill of the session, HB 26-1001. This is the measure that would allow nonprofits, school districts and transit agencies to build housing on land they own without local government approval. It passed 35-24. A similar measure died in the Senate last session.

Another housing-related bill, HB 26-1036, died in the House Finance Committee this week. That measure would have allowed local voters to impose a tax on homes that sit empty for long stretches of the year.

Legislative turnover has been relatively high in recent years, and there was a high-profile departure this week. Sen. Dafna Michaelson Jenet, D-Commerce City, resigned, citing low legislative pay. She's taking a job leading a non-profit advocacy organization. She was president pro tempore of the Senate and had a high profile as an advocate for mental health and juvenile justice reforms.

Members of both houses – and many guests – gathered in the Senate chamber Friday morning to honor and memorialize Faith Winter, a Democratic senator and former House member who died late last year in an automobile accident.

Tallying the bills

There was a big dump of bills in the past week (going back to Feb. 6), but most of them fell into just two categories. The supplemental bills accounted for 30 of the measure, and 15 more were this session's set of sunset bills

The most interesting new bill has to be **SB 26-097, a Democratic measure that would legalize prostitution.**

Beyond those, here's a rundown on other new bills of interest:

Artificial intelligence - HB 26-1195 would set restrictions on use of AI in behavioral health treatment and counseling. Democratic.

Crime - SB 26-111 proposes new sentencing rules for sexual assault on a child. Bipartisan.

Data centers - SB 26-102 would establish comprehensive regulatory requirements for large-load data centers. Democratic

Homelessness - HB 26-1202 would require the Department of Local Affairs to propose a statewide strategy on homelessness prevention and resolution, allow local governments to create multijurisdictional homelessness authorities and allowing real estate documentary fees to be used for affordable housing. Democratic.

Housing - HB 26-1206 would allow city and county housing authorities to levy sales, use or property taxes (subject to voter approval) to fund affordable housing development. Democratic

Legislature - SB 26-087 would create legislative leave and job protection for certain lower-income legislators, and SB 26-108 would require the various legislative interest caucuses to disclose their funding. Democratic sponsors on both.

Youth sports - SB 26-100 would require youth sports organizations and local governments to have at least one adult with first aid, CPR, and AED certification present at youth athletic activities and expands background check requirements for coaches and chaperones. Democratic

Among "statement" bills that popped up this week are SB 26-106, a GOP measure to allow voters to opt out of mail ballots, and SB 26-106, Democratic Sen. Tom Sullivan's annual attempt to lower taxes on premium cigars.

As of Friday morning, 322 bills had been introduced.

The Week for the JBC

The three representatives who sit on the budget committee spent much of their time this week in the well of the House, shepherding the supplemental bills to final passage.

But all JBC six members did manage to get a little figure setting done for the 2026-27 budget. Major agencies considered this week included the Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Health and Environment.

Senate members of the committee are on supplemental duty next week as those bills move to that chamber. The package is expected to have a speedier ride in the Senate than it did in the House.

Bills of Interest

HB26-1125, Parent Penalties Minor Using Electric Bicycle (Rep. Bradley/Sen. Carson), this bill creates penalties to be assessed against a parent or guardian who permits their minor child or ward to operate an electrical assisted bicycle, electric motorcycle, electric scooter, or electric skateboard if the minor child or ward operates the electric vehicle in a manner which violates certain laws concerning the use of electric vehicles. This includes laws regarding age requirements, how to safely and properly operate electric vehicles on roadways or pathways, and required safety gear.

General Updates

Fuel Impact Enterprise

Senate Bill 23-280 (Hazardous Material Mitigation) created the Fuels Impact Enterprise (FIE) to improve fuel transportation and monitor motor vehicle emissions. The FIE is funded by imposing a Fuels Impact Reduction Fee on licensed fuel distributors. It uses fee revenue to administer the Fuels Impact Reduction Grant Program, which distributes grants to certain entities for improving hazardous mitigation corridors and projects related to emergency response, environmental mitigation, or fuel transportation. Senate Bill 23-280 names Adams County, the City of Aurora, El Paso County, Mesa County, and Otero County as recipients of the first \$10 million collected by the fund each year. Another \$5 million per year is distributed to projects on key commercial freight corridors or to projects related to the transportation of fuel within the state on hazardous materials routes. The Fuels Impact Fund is limited to an available fund balance of \$15 million. This FIE will expire on January 1, 2030. The Transportation Commission is directed to serve as the board of the Fuels Impact Enterprise and one full time employee is appropriated to implement the bill.

PM met with the City Manager's office to discuss the issues this poses to Commerce City. We are currently exploring ways to meaningfully engage to address Commerce

City's concerns. We will provide an update regarding progress at the March 2nd Legislative Committee Hearing.

HB26-1101, Criminal Offenses Related to Critical Infrastructure (Reps. Espenoza, Soper; Sens. Lindstedt, B. Pelton) **Monitor**

After legislative committee on 2/9, PM connected with proponents and sponsors to get some background on the intent of this legislation and who has been involved in the stakeholding process up to this point. When connecting with sponsors, they reported this legislation is meant to prevent theft of critical infrastructure and that wireless, utilities, and water companies have been involved in stakeholding so far. PM has reached out to sponsors to let them know that we would like to be involved in stakeholding as Commerce City would like to get to a place of support for this legislation. In regards to enforcement, they do not plan to add any additional requirements around this piece.

HB26-1134, Fairness & Transparency in Municipal Court (Reps. Mabrey, Velasco; Sens. Amabile, Weissman) **Monitor**

PM connected with CML regarding this legislation. CML confirmed that cost would be passed on to municipalities and they consider this proposed legislation to be an unfunded mandate.

Notable stories of the week

- Lawmakers wrestle with prison growth (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/02/13/colorado-policymakers-scramble-with-prisons-on-track-to-exceed-capacity/>
- Democratic bill would legalize prostitution (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/02/13/colorado-democrats-seek-to-legalize-prostitution-by-july/>
- Committee kills bill that would have allowed higher taxes in vacant homes (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/11/vacancy-tax-legislation-fails/>
- Sen. Michaelson Jenet resigns, citing low legislative pay (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/10/dafna-michaelson-jenet-resigns-colorado-legislature/>
- House passes first big housing bill (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2026/02/09/colorado-housing-restrictions-nonprofits-schools/>

All of this week's news links

(Only a single link is provided for some events that were covered by multiple outlets. Multiple links are provided for some major stories.)

Friday, Feb. 13

- Lawmakers wrestle with prison growth (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/02/13/colorado-policymakers-scramble-with-prisons-on-track-to-exceed-capacity/>
- Democratic bill would legalize prostitution (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/02/13/colorado-democrats-seek-to-legalize-prostitution-by-july/>
- Bill would require legislative caucus groups to disclose funders (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/13/colorado-caucuses-donors-spending-disclosures-democratic-unity-bill/>
- Judge stops Trump plan to cut health funding (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/12/federal-judge-stops-trump-600-million-public-health-funding-cuts/>
- Regulation of data centers backed by environmental groups (CO Newsline) - <https://coloradonewsline.com/briefs/bill-to-regulate-data-centers-colorado/>
- Bill would ease requirement for prospective teachers to disclose past misdemeanors (Chalkbeat) - <https://www.chalkbeat.org/colorado/2026/02/13/lawmakers-seek-limits-to-teacher-licensure-misdemeanor-consideration/>
- Proposal to require companies to report emissions on websites revived (Sum & Substance) - <https://tsscolorado.com/legislator-revives-bill-to-make-companies-list-emissions-totals-on-their-websites/>
- Measure proposes more flexible ways to become a CPA (Sum & Substance) - <https://tsscolorado.com/advancing-bill-exemplifies-efforts-to-boost-pathways-into-key-professions/>

Thursday, Feb. 12

- Committee endorses resolution in support of road construction (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/02/11/resolution-calling-for-increased-road-funding-clears-colorado-senate-committee/>
- Bill would expand cottage foods law (CO Newsline) - <https://coloradonewsline.com/2026/02/12/tamale-act-colorado-home-chefs/>
- Students rally in support of ghost guns bill (Chalkbeat) - <https://www.chalkbeat.org/colorado/2026/02/11/colorado-students-demand-action-rally-to-support-ghost-guns-law-update/>

Wednesday, Feb. 11

- Low morale has plagued BHA for a long time (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2026/02/11/colorado-behavioral-health-administration-equity-report/>
- Committee kills bill that would have allowed higher taxes in vacant homes (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/11/vacancy-tax-legislation-fails/>

- Sen. Michaelson Jenet resigns, citing low legislative pay (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/10/dafna-michaelson-jenet-resigns-colorado-legislature/>
- Sheriffs ask higher state reimbursement for jailed inmates (CO Newline) - <https://coloradonewline.com/2026/02/10/colorado-sheriffs-hold-people-state-prison/>
- Lawmakers take aim at “imposter” produce (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/02/10/colorado-lawmakers-take-aim-at-imposter-peaches-melons-and-chiles/>
- Dems seek to protect state from Trump (CPR) - <https://www.cpr.org/2026/02/11/state-democrat-immigration-health-bills-counter-federal-policies/>

Tuesday, Feb. 10

- House passes first big housing bill (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2026/02/09/colorado-housing-restrictions-nonprofits-schools/>
- Dem target ag pesticides (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/02/09/a-fight-over-seeds-and-bees-colorado-democrats-target-neonicotinoid-pesticides/>
- Laura Clellan sole finalist for CPW top job (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/02/09/laura-clellan-named-sole-finalist-for-colorado-parks-and-wildlife-director/>
- Common Sense Institute frets about activist legislature (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/02/09/colorados-legislative-activity-has-increased-56-since-2012-report-finds/>
- Trump targets Colorado health funding (Post) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/02/09/colorados-legislative-activity-has-increased-56-since-2012-report-finds/>
- Juvenile corrections and other bills in brief (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/2026/02/09/colorado-democrats-propose-changes-to-juvenile-corrections-jail-searches-municipal-courts-bills-in-brief/>

Saturday, Feb. 7 – Monday, Feb. 9

- Some pending Medicaid cuts paused (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/09/medicaid-cuts-disabilities/>
- Bill proposes to help with teacher housing costs (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/09/colorado-teachers-affordable-housing-state-programs/>
- Study highlights benefits of state tax credits (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2026/02/09/colorado-family-tax-credits-child-poverty-legislature/>

Dems working on bill to impose fees on booze (Sun) -

<https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/09/alcohol-fees-colorado-addiction-services/>