



## Mid-Session Newsletter

It is already more than half way through the session. This year has been a busy year for me down at the State Capitol. I have been working hard on my bill to finish the build out of the Fitzsimons veteran's community living facility. I am also working on bills to clean up our elections process and make it more efficient for everyone to vote. A highlight of my bills is below.

I am honored to have been named the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Women of the Year as a champion for small businesses. As a small business owner I know the struggles business face and want to make Colorado a good environment for business and workers.

We have finished the Colorado State

Budget. Throughout the process I am fighting for small business, working families and young workers to make sure we have an economy for that works for everyone. I know that there will be cuts to education funding this year. We need to find ways to provide more funding for our school systems. Moving the Hospital Provider Fee out of the TABOR limit gives Colorado more flexibility and more ways to fund our needed services.

### **2016 Legislation**

#### **HB 16-1397: Completion of the Fitzsimons Veterans community living center**

This bill directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to continue to plan, design, and develop the Fitzsimons state veterans community living center in Aurora for its completion. The Department may lease, with provisions, portions of the property to another state or local governmental entity to provide services to veterans who are homeless, disabled, older, or low income veterans, or qualifying family members of veterans. The goal of the project is to provide residential care options for veterans and any other residential or support services that may be needed to assist veterans in need of care. The Department is required to report its progress on the project in its annual report.

Will be heard on the House floor for Second Reading

#### **HB 16-1348: A specific crime of cruelty for law enforcement service animals**

This bill is intended to protect law enforcement service animals. It will make cruelty to law enforcement service animals a class 6 felony for a first offense, and a class 5 felony for any subsequent offenses. Furthermore, the court will not be allowed to accept a guilty plea for anything lower than a felony. A person convicted of cruelty to a law enforcement service animal will be required to make financial restitution to the individual or agency.

Assigned to Judiciary Committee, will be heard on April 14th, 2016

**HB 16-1355: Affirm local government siting authority oil and gas facilities**

This bill intends to place the authority of siting for oil and gas facilities in the hands of local governments. Currently, a local government may not designate an area of oil and gas development, unless the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) identifies such an area for designation. This bill repeals that prohibition. This bill also requires operators to ensure that the location of such facilities complies with local government site regulations.

The bill was lost on second reading on the House Floor, April 4th, 2016

**Election Legislation:**

**HB 16-1012: Requiring municipal clerks to file election results**

Currently, statements of local election results are

filed with the Secretary of State's office. This bill would instead require municipal clerks to file these statements with the Department of Local Affairs. The bill will also require the Division of Local Government to post the statements on its website, as well as a requirement for the Secretary of State's office to post a link to them on its website. This bill does not change the requirement that the certified statement must also be published in a newspaper or posted within the municipality.

The Governor signed this measure on March 16th, 2016.

**HB 16-1093: Election list maintenance procedures**

This bill will conform state law to consistently apply terms related to the way county clerks process, record, and update voter change of address information. The Secretary of State is required to perform monthly change of address database searches to determine if a voter has moved. This bill changes the procedure by which clerks confirm a voter address if it has been determined that a voter has moved.

Passed 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading in the House on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Passed 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading in the Senate on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Sent to the Governor April 11th, 2016

**HB 16-1300: Mail ballot return options requirements and procedures**

This bill gives counties the exclusive authority to determine the location and security of a voter ballot drop-off location. Counties will be encouraged to use state-owned property and to enter into public-private partnerships for the placement of drop-off locations on commercial property that is conveniently located. This bill also removes the requirement that a voter who returns their mail ballot by mail must pay for postage. The counties will instead be required to collaborate with the USPS to provide efficient delivery of mail ballots, including ballots with insufficient postage. This bill will also require for the Secretary of State to use federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to purchase one twenty-four hour secure drop box for each county in the state, unless the county submits a waiver to not receive the drop b

Passed out of State, Veterans and Military Affairs committee April 4th, 2016

Sent to House Appropriations committee

**SB 16-142: Miscellaneous updates to election laws**

This is an election law clean-up bill that will make it easier for people to vote. Various provisions will be added to election laws to make the system more efficient.

Passed out of Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs and Appropriations Committee

Will be heard on Second Readings on the Senate Floor

## **Home Owner Protects:**

### **HB 16-1217: Implement HOA Information Office Study Recommendations**

This bill intends to implement several recommendations from the "2013 Study of Comparable HOA Information and Resource Centers" conducted under HB 13-1134. The 2013 study examined the functions, duties, structure, costs, funding, and success of Homeowners Associations (HOA's) from other states. The bill will remove the \$50 statutory cap on annual fees and allows the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Regulatory Agencies to modify by rule the annual fee paid by HOA's to fund the HOA Center. It will also require the HOA Center to publish referral lists of independent contractors. The bill specifies information the contractors are required to report annually to the HOA Center.

Passed out of House State, Veterans and Military Affairs committee, April 6th 2016  
Will be heard on the House Floor for Second Readings

### **HB 16-1400: Protection against retaliation by HOA**

This bill is intended to protect homeowners filing complaints or grievances with their Homeowners' Association. Any association or agency will not be allowed to retaliate against a homeowner who has, through lawful action, filed a complaint or reported a violation.

Introduced on March 24th, 2016, assigned to State Affairs Committee

**SB 16-082: HOA whistleblower protection**

This is another bill that is intended to protect homeowners that decide to file a complaint or report a violation of the "Colorado Common Interest Ownership Act."

Introduced on January 19th, 2016, assigned to the Senate Business, Labor, Technology Committee  
Senate Business, Labor and Technology committee Postponed Indefinitely on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

Community Events

Celebrate Aurora's 125th Anniversary

April 28th, 11:30-1 pm

Aurora Municipal Center

Join the Aurora Historical Society for cake in the Aurora Municipal Center Lobby. Mayor Hogan will read a proclamation naming April Aurora's Quasquicentennial Month.

Aurora Cleanup Day:

May 21st, 10-1 pm

Bring large household waste items to be disposed

of. Locations throughout Aurora. Find locations on  
[www.auroragov.org](http://www.auroragov.org)

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