

COLORADO HOUSE DEMOCRATS

2022 End of Session Report



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Saving Coloradans Money, Improving Public Safety, and Preparing Students for Success

House Democrats responded to the most pressing needs in Colorado and delivered results that will move our state forward. This session focused on saving Coloradans money, improving public safety, building a healthier Colorado and preparing our students for success. We made record investments to reduce emissions, improve our air quality, shore up our water supply, and mitigate against increasing wildfire across the state. House Democrats also safeguarded foundational rights of Coloradans - from codifying the right to an abortion in state law to ensuring our elections remain safe and secure.

With Coloradans still recovering from the disruption of the pandemic, including rising inflation and supply chain challenges, we did everything we could to save Coloradans money. We made record investments in K-12 education to put more resources into classrooms, passed critical legislation to combat the fentanyl crisis and save lives, and sent bills to the governor that will prevent crime and improve public safety.

House Democrats set out to save Coloradans money, and we did. Because of our work, Coloradans will receive a refund check of at least \$400 for single filers and \$800 for joint filers in September to help them keep up with the rising cost of living. We lowered property taxes, saving the average homeowner \$274 and preventing tax increases on many small businesses. Families will save thousands of dollars a year with free universal preschool and more affordable child care. From reducing fees for professional licenses and fees to start your own business to saving people money at the DMV, Colorado Democrats looked everywhere we could to put more money back into your pockets.

With a once-in-a-generation opportunity to direct federal resources, the legislature invested more than \$2 billion in federal economic relief funds to make housing more affordable, increase access to behavioral health care, replenish the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, create more pathways to good paying jobs, address homelessness, and fund critical efforts to help Coloradans and communities across our state thrive.

Of the federal funds the legislature invested this year:

- \$428 million went to making housing more affordable;
- \$450 million went to increasing access to behavioral health care;
- \$600 million went to replenish the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund;
- \$200 million went to preventing and addressing homelessness;
- \$95 million went to support student success and workforce revitalization;
- \$367 million went to a wide range of economic relief and recovery efforts, such as:
 - \$52 million to address the teacher shortage by reducing financial barriers;
 - \$50 million to expand access to child care by keeping providers' doors open;
 - \$71 million to support our health care workforce and rural hospitals;
 - \$60 million to ensure our state's compliance with interstate water compacts;
 - \$48 million to support essential services for victims of crime;
 - \$39 million to increase families' access to SNAP and TANF;
 - \$35 million to bolster nonprofits meeting community needs.

Improving Our Public Safety

[^HB22-1326: Fentanyl Accountability And Prevention](#), by Speaker Garnett and Representative Lynch & Senators Pettersen and Cooke

Far too many Coloradans have died of fentanyl overdoses and poisonings. This bill is a comprehensive approach, including both proven public health solutions and enhanced criminal sentencing to target dealers and save lives. It gives law enforcement the tools they need to get fentanyl off the streets, prosecute dealers with strict criminal penalties and investigate the deaths of those poisoned by fentanyl. It invests over \$30 million in life-saving Naloxone, fentanyl testing strips, substance use disorder treatment, and an education campaign in CDPHE to educate Coloradans on the deadly impact of fentanyl.

[SB22-001: Crime Prevention Through Safer Streets](#), by Senators Buckner and Hinrichsen & Representatives Ricks and Tipper

In order to stop crime before it happens, this bill invests over \$10 million for local and state governments to design safer streets and neighborhood models that discourage crime and revitalize community image in alignment with the cultural characteristics of the area.

[^SB22-145: Resources To Increase Community Safety](#), by Senators Buckner and Cooke & Representatives A. Valdez and Will

This bill invests over \$30 million in critical crime prevention programs and addresses workforce shortages in law enforcement. The money supports community-based organizations and local law enforcement agencies to implement collaborative, data-driven intervention strategies and helps law enforcement agencies recruit, train and retain peace officers that better represent the communities they serve.

[HB22-1003: Youth Delinquency Prevention & Intervention](#), by Representatives Daugherty and Gonzales-Gutierrez & Senators Coleman and Hinrichsen

This bill puts \$2 million toward funding projects that demonstrate an evidence- and community-based response to reducing youth involvement in the juvenile justice system.

[^SB22-183: Crime Victims Services](#), by Senators Winter and Gardner & Representatives Duran and Weissman

This bill fills a revenue gap in federal funding for Colorado crime victims so they continue to receive lifesaving services. The bill invests \$35 million in pandemic relief funding to ensure essential victim services can continue for the next four years. It also invests an additional \$6 million to services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

[^HB22-1243: School Security And School Behavioral Health Services Funding](#), by Representatives Exum and Van Winkle & Senators Kolker and Hinrichsen

To improve school safety, this bill invests \$14 million to increase the number of behavioral health professionals in schools and expand the popular I Matter program, which offers free counseling sessions so that more Colorado youth can access the care they need.

[^SB22-009: Preventing Theft Of Catalytic Converters](#), by Senators Ginal and Hisey & Representatives Bird and Benavidez

To combat the rise in catalytic converter theft in Colorado, this legislation requires dealers

to account for their catalytic converter transactions in the same manner they already keep for commodity metals. It also creates a task force that will identify ways to reduce theft.

[^HB22-1077: Colorado Nonprofit Security Grant Program](#), by Representatives Michaelson Jenet and Jodeh & Senators Hansen and Priola

With Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism on the rise, this bill provides critical funding to places of worship to protect them from terrorist attacks and other forms of violence.

[^HB22-1099: Preventing Large Scale Retail Theft](#), by Representatives Roberts and Carver & Senators Zenzinger and Woodward

With the advent of online marketplaces, retail theft is becoming a major problem across the country. This bill puts forward a smart, targeted approach to hold online marketplaces and other third-party sellers accountable for selling stolen goods.

[HB22-1234: Preventing Identity-based Violence](#), by Representatives Bacon and Michaelson Jenet & Senator Rodriguez

Identity-based violence has widespread ramifications on a community's sense of safety. This bill builds awareness and positions law enforcement to solve it when it occurs.

[^HB22-1288: Safe Reporting for Sex Workers](#), by Representatives Titone and Soper & Senators Smallwood and Fields

Passed unanimously in both chambers and supported by law enforcement, this common sense public safety bill grants sex workers immunity from certain prostitution-related charges when they report human trafficking, stalking, kidnapping, assault, and murder.

[SB22-095: Improving Missing Person Investigations](#), by Senator Fields and Majority Leader Moreno & Representatives Gonzales-Gutierrez and Bacon

More than 4 out of 5 Indigenous people in the United States experience violent crime during their lifetime; a rate disproportionately higher than any other segment of the population. This bill creates an office to improve the response to and awareness of cases when Indigenous people go missing or are murdered.

[^SB22-168: Backcountry Search And Rescue](#), by Senators Donovan and Rankin & Representatives McCluskie and Will

Every year, we see more tragic avalanche deaths as our snowpack is impacted by climate change and more people venture into the backcountry. This bill improves search and rescue operations and boosts funding by \$1 million to support search and rescue efforts.

Safeguarding Coloradans' Rights

[HB22-1279: Reproductive Health Equity Act](#), by Representative Froelich and Majority Leader Esgar & Senator Gonzales

In response to an imminent threat to Roe v. Wade pending at the Supreme Court, this bill establishes the right to abortion as a fundamental right in Colorado, safeguarding the full spectrum of reproductive health care options and every pregnant person's right to choose whether or not to continue a pregnancy.

[^SB22-153: Strengthening Election Security](#), by President Fenberg and Senator Priola & Representative Lontine

In response to election security breaches in Mesa County, this bill prohibits anyone from serving as an election official if they have been convicted of an election offense or conspiracy to commit sedition, insurrection, treason, or conspiracy to overthrow the government. The bill safeguards Colorado's gold standard elections by improving training, preventing improper access, and creating new penalties for violations.

[HB22-1086: Vote Without Fear Act](#), by Representatives Sullivan and Bacon & Senators Fields and Jaquez Lewis

In response to rises in voter intimidation in Colorado and across the country, this bill prohibits the open carry of firearms at or near polling places. Armed voter intimidation has also been targeted at nonpartisan election officials simply doing their jobs.

[^HB22-1038: Right To Counsel For Youth](#), by Representatives Daugherty and Van Beber & Majority Leader Moreno and Senator Gardner

This bill changes a legal standard so that youth ages 12 and older are allowed to direct their legal representation in dependency and neglect cases. This brings Colorado in line with the recommendations of the American Bar Association and the National Association of Child Counsel and ensures Colorado stays at the forefront of child welfare practices.

[HB22-1049: Prohibiting Transcript And Diploma Withholding](#), by Representatives Bacon and Ricks & Senators Pettersen and Bridges

This bill prohibits post-secondary institutions from withholding transcripts and diplomas from students because they owe a debt, such as library fees or parking tickets, to the institution. This bill breaks down barriers to earning a degree and entering the workforce that disproportionately affects low-income students and students of color.

[^HB22-1169: Prohibit Sexual Act Without Consent](#), by Representatives Michaelson Jenet and Soper & Senators Winter and Hisey

This bill updates the definition of sexual assault in state law to include consent. Colorado's definition of sexual assault originated nearly 50 years ago with a scope that has since shown to be narrow and non-inclusive. This bill aims to modernize that definition.

[HB22-1082: Establish Fair Housing Unit Department Of Law](#), by Representatives Hooton and Bacon & Senator Gonzales

To provide systemic housing protections for Colorado residents, this bill empowers the Colorado Attorney General to enforce critical housing laws. It creates the Fair Housing Unit inside the Department of Law, allowing the AG to investigate and act against potential violations of law that risk consumer harm, public health, or public safety.

[HB22-1287: Protections for Mobile Home Park Residents](#), by Representatives Boesenecker and Hooton & Senator Winter

With the rapid rise of housing costs across the state, it is imperative that we protect our state's largest source of unsubsidized affordable housing and homeownership. This bill increases stability and enhances protections for mobile home park residents so they are given substantial notice of sale and are empowered to purchase the land they live on.

[^HB22-1102: Housing Protections For Veterans And Servicemembers](#), by Representatives Ortiz and Sullivan & Senators Gardner and Hinrichsen

No Colorado veteran or active service member should face unnecessary barriers to accessing safe, affordable housing. This bill makes it illegal for a landlord to deny housing or housing services solely because of veteran or active military status.

[SB22-097: Protection for Whistleblowers](#), by Senators Pettersen and Rodriguez & Representatives Herod and Sullivan

Last year, Colorado Democrats established protections for whistleblowers during a public health emergency. This bill makes those protections permanent for workers in both the public and private sectors, giving them the ability to raise concerns about workplace health and safety practices or hazards to their employer or government agencies.

[HB22-1367: Protecting Workers And Older Coloradans From Discrimination](#), by Representatives Lontine and Gray & Senators Winter and Pettersen

To protect more Coloradans from workplace harassment and discrimination, this bill bolsters expands the definition of “employee” in the Colorado Anti-discrimination Act to include people who work in domestic service and allows more time for parties seeking relief.

[^SB22-024: Intimidating A Witness Changes](#), by Senator Fields and Cooke & Representatives Roberts and Soper

To help law enforcement solve crimes, this bill expands the definition of witness intimidation and allows prosecutors to charge the crime in more instances.

[^SB22-049: Victim Rights Act](#), by Senators Fields and Gardner & Representatives Tipper and Carver

To align with best practices on victims’ rights, this bill updates and revises the Victims’ Rights Act for clarity on victims’ rights and the responsibilities of the courts to ensure that victims are afforded their rights throughout the criminal justice system.

[HB22-1067: Prompt Bond Hearings](#), by Representatives Woodrow and Gonzales-Gutierrez & Senators Lee and Rodriguez

Building on legislation passed last year to ensure defendants receive a bond hearing within 48 hours, this bill clarifies that the law extends to defendants in municipal court.

Supporting Workers, Small Businesses & Community Development

[HB22-1295: Universal Preschool Program](#), by Representative Sirota and Speaker Garnett & Senator Buckner and President Fenberg

Right now, Colorado parents must navigate a fractured, inaccessible, and expensive system of early childhood care. During the pandemic, many parents - disproportionately women - were forced to leave the workforce due to lack of child care. This bill makes universal preschool a reality, providing every family with 10 hours of free, high-quality preschool beginning in 2023, saving families thousands of dollars.

[SB22-230: Collective Bargaining For County Workers](#), by President Fenberg and Majority Leader Moreno & Majority Leader Esgar

Currently, only four of Colorado's 64 counties recognize their workers' right to form a union and collectively bargain. This bill ensures workers who serve the public have a seat at the table with their employers to negotiate for better pay, benefits, and more by expanding collective bargaining rights to an estimated 36,000 county workers.

[HB22-1328: Extending the Main Street Business Recovery Loan Program](#), by Representatives Titone and McLachlan & Senator Donovan

Colorado small businesses serve as the backbone of our economy, and are still recovering from the impacts of the pandemic. This bill extends and modifies a successful small business loan program to ensure Colorado's small businesses and entrepreneurs have access to the capital and resources they need through low interest loans.

[^HB22-1409: Community Revitalization Grant Program](#), by Representatives Herod and Titone & Senators Coleman and Hisey

Last year, Colorado Democrats created the Community Revitalization Grant program to provide gap funding for projects in creative districts, historic districts, main streets or neighborhood commercial centers. This bill provides an additional \$20 million to this successful program to help create vibrant communities all across the state.

[^HB22-1356: Grants for Small Community-based Nonprofits](#), by Representatives Herod and Hooton & Senators Gonzales and Rankin

When the COVID pandemic hit, nonprofit organizations adapted to meet the needs of some of our most underserved communities. This bill invests \$35 million in federal pandemic relief funds to nonprofit social service organizations that continue to fill critical gaps serving people who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

[^HB22-1364: Grants for Food Pantry Assistance](#), by Representatives Cutter and Soper & Senators Story and Priola

The pandemic exacerbated existing inequities and highlighted the importance of investing in basic services to ensure all Coloradans have access to day to day necessities. The bill invests \$3 million in the Food Pantry Assistance Grant Program and broadens the kinds of products that may be purchased to include culturally significant foods.

[HB22-1259: Increasing Basic Cash Assistance through TANF](#), by Representatives Duran and Jodeh & Majority Leader Moreno

The pandemic led to rising inflation and costs of everyday goods while the cash assistance that vulnerable families rely on hasn't increased significantly since 1996. This bill directs nearly \$50 million in pandemic relief funds to leverage other state and local resources to increase basic cash assistance under TANF and ongoing cost of living adjustments.

[HB22-1359: Colorado Household Financial Recovery](#), by Representatives Bacon and Snyder & Senators Rodriguez and Lee

The pandemic exacerbated long-standing barriers that disproportionately impacted Black and Brown Coloradans from accessing banking services and credit. Through partnerships with community financial institutions, this bill creates the Colorado Household Financial Recovery Program for low-income individuals to access low-interest loans and credit.

[HB22-1394: Funding for Just Transition](#), by Majority Leader Esgar and Representative Roberts & Senators Winter and Donovan

As Colorado continues transitioning to a cleaner economy, coal-based communities face transitions to diversify their economies and incentivize new job creation to ensure no worker is left behind. This bill distributes \$5 million in grants for resilient and sustainable local economies and \$10 million for education and assistance programs for workers.

[^HB22-1383: Employment Opportunities For Juveniles](#), by Representatives Kipp and Holtorf & Senator Lee

This bill removes barriers to employment, expands career and technical education, and increases access to workforce opportunities for juveniles in custody in Colorado, thereby reducing recidivism.

[HB22-1308: Protections for Agricultural Workers](#), by Representative McCormick & Senator Donovan

Last year, Colorado Democrats passed legislation to ensure agricultural workers receive the same protections as other workers. This bill better informs agricultural workers of their right to report workplace misconduct and promotes access to workplace resources on mental health, injury prevention, unemployment assistance and training.

[^HB22-1230: Employment Support And Job Retention Services](#), by Representatives Duran and Exum & Senators Fields and Priola

Low-income Coloradans participating in a job or skills training programs should not have their goals derailed simply because they get a flat tire or can't afford emergency child care. This bill extends a successful program that has served over 1,000 Coloradans to provide employment support and job retention services for those pursuing job or skills training.

[SB22-165: Career Advisor Training](#), by Senator Bridges & Representatives Lindsay and Geitner

To support youth and adult learners in the workforce, this bill ensures career advisors are properly trained and prepared to help Coloradans navigate which positions or credentials to pursue to secure strong career opportunities in high-growth industries.

[HB22-1205: Senior Housing Income Tax Credit](#), by Representatives Kennedy and Weissman & Senators Hansen and Coleman

The housing crisis extends to the most vulnerable Coloradans, including seniors. This bill creates an income adjusted housing rebate of up to \$1,000 for low-income seniors providing them with urgently needed relief to afford basic necessities.

Making Health Care More Affordable and Accessible

[^HB22-1278: Behavioral Health Administration](#), by Representatives Young and Pelton & Senators Lee and Simpson

Right now, Coloradans seeking behavioral health care must navigate a fractured and disjointed system. This bill creates a comprehensive behavioral health safety net system available in every region of Colorado, including substance use disorder treatment, crisis services, youth services and more, increasing access to care and saving Coloradans money.

[^SB22-226: Support for the Health-care Workforce](#), by Senators Jacquez Lewis and Rankin & Representative Mullica

Pandemic pressures and staffing shortages have taken a significant toll on health care workers. With \$61 million in pandemic relief funds, this bill helps health care workers with tuition and fees to get people into high-demand health care fields, and provides funding for health care facilities to increase training slots for long-term capacity building.

[HB22-1289: Health Benefits For Children And Pregnant People](#), by Representatives Gonzales-Gutierrez and McCluskie & Majority Leader Moreno and Senator Fields

This bill expands access to health care coverage for low-income parents and children, and mitigates health inequities by expanding access to Medicaid and the Children's Basic Health plans to those who have not been historically eligible due to immigration status.

[HB22-1401: Hospital Nurse Staffing Standards](#), by Representative Mullica & Majority Leader Moreno

The pandemic revealed the importance of hospitals being equipped to meet patients' needs without contributing to staff burnout, even as demand surges. This bill requires every hospital to have a staffing plan in place, applying lessons learned from the pandemic and positioning hospitals to quickly respond to a surge in demand.

[HB22-1153: Adoption for Parents Using Assisted Reproduction](#), by Representative Tipper and Majority Leader Esgar & Senators Bridges and Majority Leader Moreno

Currently, parents who conceive using assisted reproduction - often LGBTQ+ couples - must go through a burdensome, expensive, and complicated stepparent adoption process to be recognized as their child's legal parents. This bill creates a streamlined confirmatory adoption process for parents conceiving through assisted reproduction.

[HB22-1352: Stockpile For Declared Disaster Emergencies](#), by Representative Mullica & Senator Jaquez Lewis

Democrats are taking crucial steps so Colorado is prepared for the next pandemic. The bill invests nearly \$2 million for the state to maintain a stockpile of essential medical-grade personal protective equipment so that hospitals, vaccine clinics and other medical sites are prepared if the governor declares a disaster emergency.

[^HB22-1333: Increase Minimum Wage For Nursing Home Workers](#), by Representatives Herod and McCluskie & Senators Zenzinger and Rankin

In response to workforce shortages, especially in skilled nursing facilities, Colorado Democrats raised the minimum wage for nursing home workers to \$15 an hour statewide. This well-deserved raise supports the people who cared for our most vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to do so in the future.

[^HB22-1268: Medicaid Reimbursement Rates for Mental Health Providers](#), by Representatives Amabile and Holtorf & Senators Ginal and Simpson

Community mental health providers serve as a critical backstop in our behavioral health care system. Unfortunately, recent reports in the media have shed light on significant pay discrepancies for providers in CMHCs compared to the private sector. This bill requires a comprehensive analysis and the development of equitable payment models that will work to ensure parity between these two types of behavioral health care providers.

[^HB22-1290: Changes To Medicaid For Wheelchair Repairs](#), by Representatives Titone and Ortiz & Senators Zenzinger and Coram

Wheelchair users on Medicaid must go through lengthy prior authorization processes for wheelchair repairs that compromise their safety and well-being. This first in the nation bill would improve existing Medicaid rules for repairing wheelchairs, adaptive seating systems and other mobility devices, eliminating the need for prior authorization for any repairs.

[^SB22-172: Colorado Rural Health-care Workforce Initiative](#), by Senators Winter and Rankin & Representatives Roberts and Rich

Many rural communities in Colorado are deemed health care shortage areas, which threatens the health, safety and well-being of people who may not have access to the critical primary care they need. This bill establishes and funds a workforce initiative to expand the number of health-care professionals practicing in rural or frontier counties.

[^SB22-200: Rural Provider Stimulus Grant Program](#), by Senators Ginal and Rankin & Representatives McCluskie and Soper

Coloradans in rural areas face unique challenges in accessing health care. This bill creates a grant program for rural hospitals to expand access to telehealth services and increase access to care, making health care more affordable for rural Coloradans.

Preserving our Agriculture, Clean Air and Water

[SB22-193: Air Quality Improvement Investments](#), by President Fenberg and Senator Gonzales & Representatives A. Valdez and Froelich

After record poor air quality in recent years, this bill invests \$111 million into clean transportation initiatives such as electric-powered school buses and e-bike sharing programs, and incentivizes the reduction of harmful industrial emissions.

[HB22-1244: Protections from Air Toxics](#), by Representatives Kennedy and Gonzales-Gutierrez & Senator Gonzales

This bill improves Colorado's air quality through increased monitoring and regulation of hazardous air toxics. It requires identifying priority air toxics; creates a process for setting protective health-based standards to prioritize public health; requires emissions control regulations to reduce toxic air pollution; and establishes a framework for future permitting.

[HB22-1358: Clean Water In Schools And Child Care Centers](#), by Representative Sirota & Senators Winters and Fields

Lead is a poisonous heavy metal that can cause irreversible developmental damage to young children. This bill invests \$21 million for schools and child care centers to test their drinking water for lead and remediate it if unsafe levels are discovered.

[HB22-1362: Building Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#), by Representatives Bernett and A. Valdez & Senators Hansen and Winter

One of the largest sources of pollution comes from the building sector. This helps to reduce indoor and outdoor air pollution and save people money on their energy bills by

creating a timeline to adopt energy efficient building codes and provides \$25 million to local governments and communities to assist with local decarbonization efforts.

[SB22-180: Reducing Ozone Through Increased Transit](#), by Senators Winter and Hinrichsen & Representatives Gray and Bacon

Poor ozone days impact the health of all Coloradans. This bill helps to reduce transportation emissions, one of the biggest contributors to high ozone levels, by investing \$58 million in increasing access to transit during ozone season and \$10 million in the Revitalizing Main Streets grant program for communities that improve air quality through increased use of public transit.

[^HB22-1151: Turf Replacement Program](#), by Representatives Roberts and Catlin & Senators Bridges and Simpson

Colorado's decades-long drought continues to threaten our natural spaces and the livelihoods of our farmers and ranchers. This bill creates a program to incentivize the replacement of nonessential irrigated turf with native drought tolerant plants to reduce the consumption of and conserve our most valuable resource: water.

[HB22-1322: Water Quality Regulation](#), by Representatives Benavidez and A. Valdez & Majority Leader Moreno and Senator Gonzales

Low income and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by industrial pollution. This bill requires enhanced outreach and engagement and extends the statute of limitation for water quality violations to ensure violators are held accountable.

[^HB22-1345: Perfluoroalkyl And Polyfluoroalkyl Chemicals](#), by Representatives Cutter and Bradfield & Senators Gonzales and Lee

PFAS, also known as forever chemicals because they do not naturally break down in the environment, are commonly used in everyday consumer products and believed to cause serious health problems like cancer and organ damage. This bill restricts the sale of certain products that contain PFAS, including baby products and food packaging, and requires cookware to include a label informing consumers if the product contains PFAS.

[HB22-1348: Oversight Of Chemicals Used In Oil And Gas](#), by Representatives Froelich and Caraveo & Senator Winter

Hundreds of toxic chemicals are used during oil and gas drilling and fracking processes, some of which are highly toxic and may contaminate drinking water. This bill requires additional reporting and disclosure to impacted local governments and the public before the chemicals are used in operations.

[^HB22-1355: Producer Responsibility Program For Recycling](#), by Representative Cutter & Senators Gonzales and Priola

Colorado recycles just 15% of its waste - less than half the national average - largely because of a lack of access to convenient, affordable curbside recycling services. This bill addresses Colorado's fractured approach to recycling by making recycling free for most consumers. It asks producers to contribute, based on their product's packaging, to more coordinated management of a statewide recycling system. Revenue generated from producers will be used toward expanding Colorado's recycling infrastructure, making it easier for Coloradans across the state to access reliable, no-cost curbside recycling.

[^SB22-028: Groundwater Compact Compliance Fund](#), by Senators Simpson and Sonnenberg & Representatives Roberts and Catlin

While Colorado is in compliance with all water compacts, several river and conservation districts cannot meet their obligations and ensure sustainable levels of groundwater remain available. This bill invests \$60 million of federal pandemic relief funds to help Colorado's river and conservation districts meet their obligations.

[^HB22-1159: Waste Diversion And Circular Economy Development Center](#), by Representative Cutter & Senators Winter and Priola

One of the barriers to improving Colorado's poor recycling rate is a lack of access to end markets - businesses that use recycled material to make new products. This bill addresses this problem by creating the Circular Economy Development center to conduct a statewide gap analysis aimed at attracting and supporting end-market businesses.

[^SB22-118 Encouraging Geothermal Energy Use](#), by Representatives D. Valdez and Holtorf & Senators Hinrichsen and Woodward

As Colorado continues to transition to a cleaner economy, all renewable resources must be incorporated in the state's energy portfolio. This bill provides the framework necessary to further develop our natural geothermal resources and incorporate them in our clean energy future. .

Defeating Dangerous GOP Bills That Would Have...

Banned Abortion in Colorado

- [HB22-1079](#) would have placed an unconstitutional ban on abortion in Colorado with no exceptions. The bill explicitly directed Colorado to disregard federal law and federal court rulings and would have subjected Colorado judges who support access to abortion to impeachment. In addition, it would have allowed a private right of action against abortion providers, and potentially patients too.
- [HB22-1047](#) would have banned abortion in Colorado with no exceptions, criminalized miscarriages and subjected abortion providers to imprisonment.
- [HB22-1075](#) would have established a registry to track and surveil abortion patients and providers. It also would have created a roadmap for abortion opponents to identify and further threaten abortion patients and providers.

Ended Vote-by-Mail and Dismantled Colorado's Gold Standard Elections System

- For the second year in a row, GOP lawmakers used repeatedly debunked conspiracy theories to claim the 2020 election was stolen in order to upend how Coloradans vote. [HB22-1204](#) would have eliminated vote by mail and early voting, limiting voter participation and undermining election access and security. Over 98 percent of voters in the 2021 election chose to cast their ballot by mail, and almost 94 percent of ballots in the 2020 General Election were returned via mail or drop box. The vast majority of Colorado voters, 86 percent, returned their ballots before Election Day.

Promoted Dangerous, Ineffective Covid "Cures" and Anti-Vax Bills

- [HB22-1015](#) would have promoted prescribing hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin off-label for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19. The World Health Organization has warned against using hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19, and the FDA has been vocal about the dangers of using ivermectin, especially veterinary ivermectin intended for livestock. The use of these drugs can cause adverse effects in patients, and they have been proven to be ineffective in treating COVID-19.
- [HB22-1200](#) would have infringed on employers' rights to protect their employees and keep their businesses open. The bill would have allowed employees to submit a written exemption to forgo the COVID-19 vaccine, possibly contributing to outbreaks in workplaces and health care facilities.
- [HB22-1201](#) falsely claimed that vaccines issued by the FDA under the Emergency Use Authorization status (EUAs) are not safe. COVID-19 vaccines are [proven](#) safe and extremely effective at preventing serious illness and death from COVID-19. While this bill would have directly impacted the use of the COVID-19 vaccines, it could have also delayed essential treatment needed for future infectious diseases that could be prevented by a rapidly made, safe vaccine.

Upended Constitutional Law Enforcement

- [HB22-1147](#), unconstitutional according to analysis prepared by nonpartisan staff, would have required federal law enforcement departments to seek approval and notify county sheriffs before engaging in a law enforcement operation within their regions or jurisdictions, jeopardizing critical federal investigations. The legislation was inspired by the Constitutional Sheriff Movement, which argues that county sheriffs should have supremacy over federal law enforcement. They have been labeled an extremist group by the Anti-Defamation League.