

The General Assembly considered several measures related to local government during the 2023 legislative session, including bills regarding local government operations, metropolitan districts, public employees, electric vehicles, and safety.

Local Government Operations

Senate Bill 23-286 makes changes to the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA). Changes include, but are not limited to, prohibiting identification requirements and fees for records transmitted electronically, and making certain records related to sexual harassment complaints and investigations public.

The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement contracts out a portion of its detention capacity to state and local governments. *House Bill 23-1100* prohibits the state and any local government in the state from entering into an agreement to detain individuals in an immigration detention facility that is owned, managed, or operated by a private entity. The bill also prohibits government entities from, among other things, paying any of the costs or receiving any payments from immigration detention facilities that are or will be owned, managed, or operated by a private entity.

Senate Bill 23-059 requires the Parks and Wildlife Commission to enact rules authorizing a local government to request that a state park or wildlife area charge an additional per vehicle fee to visit. This fee must not exceed \$2 and will be transferred to the Local Access Route Cash Fund.

Metropolitan Districts

Senate Bill 23-110 updates several metropolitan district requirements. Metropolitan districts must include maximum mill levy and maximum debt issuance in service plans. In addition, certain metropolitan districts must conduct annual meetings about outstanding projects and debts. Also, sellers of residential property located within a metropolitan district must provide the property's purchaser with the metropolitan district's official website. Finally, the bill includes several provisions related to the issuance of debt by metropolitan organizations.

Public Employees

Senate Bill 23-053 prohibits state, counties, cities, municipalities, school districts, institutions, agencies, or any other public employers from requiring past, current, or potential employees to sign a nondisclosure agreement concerning their employment, with exceptions. These exceptions include, but are not limited to, circumstances where



Local Government

the agreement is necessary to prevent the disclosure of:

- data, information, or matters that are required to be kept confidential by federal or state laws and regulations;
- state business-related information received from a third party that the third party has designated confidential; and
- trade secrets owned by the employer.

House Bill 23-1305 makes any local government that offers police or fire protection services eligible to have the continuation of medical and dental benefits for dependents of an employee who died in a work-related death paid for from the Law Enforcement Officers' and Firefighters' Continuation of Benefits Fund for one year.

The protections provided by the National Labor Relations Act and the Colorado Labor Peace Act do not cover most public employees. *Senate Bill 23-111* grants certain public employees the right to:

- discuss or express views regarding public employee representation or workplace issues;
- fully participate in the political process while off duty and not in uniform; and
- organize, form, join, or assist an employee organization, or to refrain from doing so.

The bill also prohibits certain public employers from discriminating or imposing reprisals against a public employee for engaging in any of the rights granted.



Electric Vehicles

House Bill 23-1233 prohibits the State Electrical Board and local governments from adopting rules or ordinances that prohibit the installation or use of EV charging stations.

Safety

House Bill 23-1237 requires the University of Colorado to conduct a study by July 1, 2024 to determine what municipalities, sheriff's offices, counties, fire districts, and local 911 agencies should provide emergency alerts in minority languages, and what local 911 agencies need in order to provide live interpretation during a 911 call.

Senate Bill 23-166 creates a Wildfire Resiliency Code Board (WRCB) within the Department of Public Safety. The board is required to establish codes and standards for the hardening of structures and reduction of fire risk in the defensible space surrounding structures in the wildland-urban interface. Governing bodies with the authority to adopt building or fire codes that have jurisdiction in an area within the wildlife-urban interface must adopt and enforce a code that meets the minimum standards of the WRCB's codes.

House Bill 23-1194 creates the Closed Landfill Remediation Grant Program to help eligible local governments pay the costs of environmental remediation efforts and landfill management. The grant will be administered starting July 1, 2024.