

House Democrats Caucus Meeting

Location: Old State Library, Room 271, in the Colorado State Capitol

Remote link:

<https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00327/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20240327/-1/15761>

Date/Time: Upon Adjournment of the House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Attendees: Members of the House Democratic Caucus, House Majority staff, Joint Budget Committee staff, and members of the public

- 10:35 AM: Caucus chair Rep Lindsay brought the meeting to order.
- JBC Members provided an overview of HB24-1430, the Long Bill, and the General Fund
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Agriculture
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Corrections
 - Discussion regarding the methodology for caseload adjustments and the JBC's justification for using the OSPB forecast to increase beds when the LCS forecast did not see a need for increased beds.
 - Assistant Majority Leader Bacon asked about the inclusion of a Parole Fee.
 - Representative Mabrey asked about the use of funding by the Department for workforce housing.
 - Representative Titone asked about the supplemental funding for inmate phone calls.
 - Representative Garcia asked about the staff retention and mentorship efforts by the Department.
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Early Childhood
 - Representative Garcia asked about Universal Preschool and Early Childhood workforce funding.
 - Representative Joseph asked about the reserve requirement in HB24-1387.
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Education
 - Representative Brown asked about the CSI Mill Levy Equalization transfer and if there would need to be an additional change beyond HB24-1394.
 - Representative Parenti asked for clarification and justification for funding some of the CSI Mill Levy from the state ed fund instead of full funding on the total line item, as well as how HB24-1394 changes the funding source of the mill levy.
 - Representative Parenti asked what the purpose of the \$22M from the State Education Fund would be if it wasn't going to the CSI Mill Levy.
 - Representative Parenti asked if the CSI Mill Levy money could be used for other services to support students.
 - Speaker McCluskie commented on the \$22M going to the State Education Fund.
 - Representative Hamrick asked for a clarification of the CSI Mill Levy override equalization, which is the "Charter School Institute Mill Levy"
 - Representative Hamrick asked for clarification if CSI schools need to follow school district rules, if there are districts that don't pass mill levies, and if there's been a discussion to fund districts that have not been able to pass a mill levy.

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- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Office of the Governor
 - Representative Ricks about funding for the Cannabis Business Office, a request that was not funded by the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund.
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
 - Representative Ortiz expressed gratitude for working to lower IMD wait times through the waiver.
 - Representative Amabile asked about the unwind and if there is funding for providers who have primarily Medicaid patients who will be losing patients because of the unwind.
 - Representative Garcia asked about the Medicaid abortion provider reimbursement rates and inquired about the 100% benchmark and recommendations from HCPF.
 - Representative Brown asked about the Public Health Emergency Unwind and if there is adequate direction to HCPF about Medicaid redeterminations to be patient-centered.
 - Representative Young expressed gratitude for JBC's work, and asked about the decrease in funding for anesthesiologists who have higher caseloads of Medicaid patients.
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Higher Education
 - Representative Herod asked for clarification on Step 2 funding.
 - Speaker McCluskie praised the investments in higher education, and asked about funding for rural community colleges.
 - Representative McLachlan expressed gratitude for the increase in funding for higher education.
 - Representative Story commented that continued funding for higher education will help stabilize costs for students
 - Representative Story asked about the lack of additional funding for area technical colleges, despite the 9.4% increase.
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Human Services
 - Representative Parenti asked about additional funding for the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind to continue services.
 - Assistant Majority Leader Bacon asked about the Tony Grampsass grant regarding how it was funded last year and how it is funded this year.
 - Representative Parenti asked for clarification on why there aren't continuous appropriations for the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind.
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Judicial Department
 - Representative Weissman asked for a clarification of the funding amount for the Office of State Public Defenders.
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Labor and Employment
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Law

- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Legislative Department
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Local Affairs
 - Representative Mabrey asked about a line item for emergency rental assistance.
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Natural Resources
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Personnel
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Public Health and Environment
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Public Safety
 - Representative Herod asked how much funding for the auto theft item is for public awareness.
 - Representative Herod asked for clarification of a budget request for restitution from individuals falsely accused of a crime.
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Regulatory Agencies
 - Representative Parenti asked about the continuous appropriation for the Colorado Commission of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind.
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Revenue
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of State
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Transportation
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for the Department of Treasury
 - Representative Parenti asked about the unfunded liability of PERA.
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for Capital Construction
 - Rep Lindsay asked about the Capital Development Committee's Prioritization List and why the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind is no longer on the list of capital construction projects.
 - Representative Story asked to clarify the status of the \$20M request for the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind.
 - Representative Story asked if there would be any design funding for the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind to support a BEST grant or if there were other projects that were not funded on the list.
- JBC Members reviewed the Long Bill items for Information Technology Projects
- 12:32 PM: Meeting Adjourned.