



Legislative Agenda Proposals - 2023

Legislative Fact Sheet
December 29, 2022

Priority 1: Employment Support Fund Enterprise Conformity ([Link to fact sheet](#))

Sponsor(s): Joint Budget Committee Bill Proposal

Summary: Summary: In May, CDLE received a formal letter of concern from USDOL regarding conformity of the Employment Support Fund (ESF) set out in CRS § 8-77-109 and 8-76-102.5 and how ESF is funded by taking the first .00145 of each Colorado employer's unemployment premium. Being out of conformity with federal law may result in losing all credits against the federal unemployment tax and the loss of the SSA administrative grant given to states to operate their UI programs.

Priority 2: Wage Theft Worker Payments for Employees ([Link to fact sheet](#))

Sponsor(s): Joint Budget Committee Bill Proposal

Summary: Since 2019, the size and work scope of the Division of Labor Standards and Statistics (DLSS) has more than doubled in size - yielding far higher collections of fines that, by law, must be deposited into the Wage Theft Enforcement Fund (WTEF). Due to the increase in collections in recent years, DLSS is proposing what has been done in other states: If, after collection efforts, a worker still doesn't receive unpaid wages that DLSS ordered the employer to pay, DLSS should be able to reimburse the worker from available WTEF funds, after annual spending from WTEF for DLSS expenses has occurred.

Priority 3: Updates to the Colorado Apprenticeship Directory ([Link to fact sheet](#))

Sponsor(s): Senator Danielson

Summary: The Colorado Apprenticeship Directory has been a game changer in providing transparency to the public on details of registered apprenticeship opportunities in Colorado. However, there are a few data elements set forth in the original legislation that cannot be consistently captured from a third-party source (e.g., federal database). When programs are asked about the information, they either leave it blank, guess, or express confusion as to why they are being asked this information, leading to a decline in the integrity of the data and the inability of the Office of the Future of Work (OFOW) to accurately understand the state of apprenticeship across Colorado. By clarifying information sources and types within the original statute, OFOW will be better suited to capture meaningful data that will inform the state's apprenticeship expansion efforts and align with the implementation of the State Apprenticeship Agency.

Priority 4: Eliminating Discrimination in Eligibility for Public Benefits ([Link to fact sheet](#))

Sponsor(s): Representative Jodeh

Summary: Colorado has three statutes that prevent a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) from sponsoring their family or close friends from coming to the United States if the LPR is accessing mainstream benefits (e.g., Medicaid). Currently, Colorado is the only state in the entire country to have this kind of restriction on lawful permanent residents. Eliminating these statutes will lead us towards a Colorado For All that does not disincentivize Coloradans from receiving essential benefits that they need or make Coloradans choose between vital healthcare or reuniting with their family.

Priority 5: Employer Notification of Earned Income & Child Tax Credits ([Link to fact sheet](#))

Sponsor(s): Representative Young, Senator Exum

Summary: The federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit (CTC), and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) offer low- and middle-income households thousands of dollars in income support each year but often go unclaimed. These credits have been shown to encourage work, improve family health and education outcomes, improve child birth weight and nutrition, reduce recidivism, and are income supplements that boost workers' overall take-home earnings, which is in the interest of employers. The Governor's Office and CDLE are proposing legislation to require employers to notify employees of their potential eligibility for the credits, which would bolster our current tax credit outreach and tax filing assistance project.

Priority 6: Ensuring a Future-Ready Colorado Workforce ([Link to fact sheet](#))

Sponsor(s): Senator Hinrichsen, Senator Sullivan, Representative Ortiz

Summary: In order to ensure that Colorado has the programs and infrastructure to respond to a dynamic economy, the Department is proposing establishing the Office of Future of Work (OFOW) in statute. By codifying OFOW in statute, the Office can continue to serve as a central point for the state's efforts to identify emerging trends, build new programs and policies to respond to Colorado's evolving economy and workforce, and support workers as they adapt to an ever-changing landscape. The Department is also requesting updates to the SAA and its councils, in order to comply with the guidance of the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) Office of Apprenticeship and conform with federal regulations.

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