



## Local Government

During the 2018 legislative session, the General Assembly considered local government measures related to county government, and emergency services providers and emergency management.

### County Government

**County categorization.** Colorado counties are categorized based on population, unincorporated area size, assessed property valuation, motor vehicle registrations, building permits, military installations, and other relevant factors for the purpose of determining the salary of elected county officials. *House Bill 18-1242* makes the following county categorization changes, which increases the salary of their elected officials:

- Grand County changes from category III-D to category III-B;
- Rio Grande County changes from category IV-D to category IV-C;
- Saguache County changes from category V-D to category V-B; and
- Jackson County changes from category VI-D to category VI-C.

The bill also decreases Sedgwick County elected official salaries by changing Sedgwick County from category VI-B to category VI-C.

**County reports.** Under current law, counties are required to publish expense reports, salary reports, and financial statements in at least one legal newspaper in the county. *Senate Bill*

*18-156*, which was vetoed by the Governor, would have reduced the frequency of these reports to once annually instead of twice annually, and would have permitted publication of these reports on the county's website.

**County commissioners.** The General Assembly also considered two bills related to county commissioners. *Senate Bill 18-190*, which was postponed indefinitely, would have authorized a board of county commissioners to delegate by resolution any planning powers it has to the county planning commission, except for creating fines and penalties.

Currently, in a county with a population of less than 70,000, the board of county commissioners consists of three members from three separate districts, with one commissioner elected from each district by the voters of the whole county. *Senate Bill 18-221*, also postponed indefinitely, would have allowed voters in counties with a population of less than 70,000 to change the current method for electing county commissioners by referred measure or by initiative.

### Emergency Services Providers & Emergency Management

**Emergency services providers.** *Senate Bill 18-247* creates the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Continuation of Benefits Board to review submissions from participating employers for the continuation of medical and

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dental benefits for the dependents of any employee who dies in a work-related death and whose duties were directly involved with the provision of police or fire protection services.

*House Bill 18-1184* requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to create and submit to the General Assembly a state of 911 report before September 15, 2018, and each year thereafter. The report must provide an overall understanding of the state of 911 in Colorado and at a minimum must include information on:

- the PUC's 911-related actions from the previous year and planned actions for the upcoming year;
- the current statewide structure, technology, and general operations of 911;
- 911 network reliability and resiliency;
- 911 gaps, vulnerabilities, and needs;
- the impact on and involvement of the state in federal activities and trends affecting 911;
- the state's planning for, transition to, and implementation of Next Generation 911, including a timeline for statewide implementation; and
- 911 funding and fiscal outlook, including the adequacy of current funding sources, and potential Next Generation 911 funding sources.

***Emergency management.*** *House Bill 18-1394* adds definitions and updates emergency management terminology in statute, creates a disaster policy group, and continues the Colorado Resiliency Office by codifying it in the Department of Local Affairs.