

Summary of Legislation

2024



State Government and Immigration

During the 2024 legislative session, the General Assembly considered bills concerning state government, including addressing topics related to elected officials, state agencies, the Colorado Open Records Act, and accessibility. Additionally, the General Assembly considered legislation addressing various immigration matters.

Elected Officials

Prior to the 2024 legislative session, the compensation rates for elected officials were set in state law and require legislative action to be changed. Base salary rates were tied to those of state justices and judges. [House Bill 24-1059](#) creates the nine-member Independent State Elected Official Pay Commission to recommend the compensation for state elected officials every four years. The General Assembly can then accept, modify, or reject the commission's recommendations. Beginning in FY 2025-26, the bill modifies the per diem rate for legislators.

[Senate Bill 24-160](#) allows public inspection of records that pertain to sexual harassment complaints against a legislator found culpable through the complaint or resolution process of sexual harassment, aligning the Legislative Department with that legislation passed in 2023 related to harassment complaints against an elected official.

State Agencies

[Senate Bill 24-053](#) establishes the Black Coloradan Racial Equity Study Commission to study and make recommendations related to any

potential historical and ongoing effects of slavery and subsequent systemic racism on Black Coloradans that may be attributed to practices, systems, and policies of the state. The work of the commission depends on the state receiving adequate gifts, grants, and donations to conduct the study.

[House Bill 24-1287](#), which was deemed postponed indefinitely, would have required the Department of Personnel and Administration to create a publically accessible database with information about grant opportunities that are funded with state money or administered by the state. The bill would have also created the Grant Assistance to Rural Communities Program in the Department of Local Affairs to assist public and private rural entities in identifying and applying for grant opportunities.

Colorado Open Records Act and Colorado Open Meetings Law

[Senate Bill 24-157](#) changes and clarifies the application of the Colorado Open Meetings Law (COML) and the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) with respect to meetings and communications of the General Assembly and its members. The bill establishes that for the purposes of applying COML to the General Assembly, "public business" means proposed and introduced bills, resolutions, and memorials, or other matters being considered by a legislative committee. Public business does not include administrative, interpersonal, or logistical matters. The bill clarifies what constitutes a quorum and establishes that written communications between

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two or more members of the General Assembly, including electronic communication, are not subject to COML but may be subject to CORA.

[House Bill 24-1296](#) would have modified the procedures for responding to CORA requests, including expanding the circumstances that allow a public entity to have a longer response period, and changing how multiple requests by the same person and requests made for monetary gain are handled. The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee.

Accessibility

House Bill 21-1110 required state and local governmental agencies to comply with digital accessibility standards on or before July 1, 2024. [House Bill 24-1454](#) extends a one-year grace period from liability if the noncompliant agency creates a progress report demonstrating a good-faith effort towards meeting accessibility requirements.

[Senate Bill 24-153](#) requires the State Library in the Colorado Department of Education to expand on-demand news and information services to Coloradans who are blind or print-disabled and to increase the awareness of these services.

[House Bill 24-1368](#) creates the Language Access Advisory Board in the Legislative Department to study and make recommendations over the 2024 interim on improving language access to the legislative process for populations with limited English proficiency.

Immigration

[House Bill 24-1280](#) establishes the Statewide Welcome, Reception, and Integration Grant

Program in the Department of Labor and Employment to award grants to community-based organizations that provide culturally and linguistically appropriate navigation of state services to migrants within one year of arrival in the United States.

[Senate Bill 24-182](#) changes certain requirements under the “Colorado Road and Community Safety Act,” which authorizes the issuance of driver’s licenses or state identification cards to individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States. These changes include:

- removing the requirement that the applicant has filed a Colorado resident income tax return;
- removing the two-year residency requirement;
- removing the requirement that the applicant provide a documented social security number or individual taxpayer identification number; and
- beginning on January 1, 2027, expanding the list of acceptable identification documents.

[House Bill 24-1128](#) would have modified the enforcement of federal immigration law in the state by prohibiting local governments from enacting ordinances or policies that limit or prohibit peace officers, local officials, or employees from communicating or cooperating with federal officials regarding the immigration status of individuals. Additionally, when making a criminal arrest, peace officers who had probable cause to believe an arrestee was not legally present in the United States would have been required to report the individual to federal immigration authorities. The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House State, Civic, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee.

