



State Government

During the 2020 legislative session, the General Assembly considered measures related to its operations, state employees and retirement plans, state agencies and procurement, open records and meetings, and notarization. Several of the bills were in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related state disaster emergency declared by the Governor in March.

General Assembly

The General Assembly considered a number of bills concerning legislative compensation and operations and emergency disaster declarations. *House Bill 20-1423* and *Senate Bill 20-220* make temporary changes to the per diem and compensation for members of the General Assembly. *Senate Bill 20-209* clarifies the effective date of bills with petition clauses adopted in the 2020 legislative session since the legislative session was suspended in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emergency disaster declarations.

House Bill 20-1426 requires the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council and the Joint Budget Committee to meet with the Governor in March, August, and December following the Governor's declaration of a disaster emergency. The bill also requires reporting by the Office of State Planning and Budgeting on disaster-related spending and requires the State Auditor to conduct performance and financial audits of the Disaster Emergency Fund. *House Concurrent Resolution 20-1002* and

Senate Concurrent Resolution 20-002 would have limited disaster emergency declarations by the Governor. *Senate Joint Resolution 20-022* would have terminated the state disaster emergency that was initially declared by the Governor in Executive Order D 2020 003. All three of these resolutions were postponed indefinitely.

Committees and legislative staff.

Senate Bill 20-214 suspends interim committees from meeting in 2020. *House Bill 20-1021* replaced two of the five at-large members of the Colorado Youth Advisory Council with one voting member representing the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and one voting member representing the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. *House Bill 20-1329*, which was postponed indefinitely, would have required each department to annually report on any unfunded programs as part of the State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act. *Senate Bill 20-133*, which was postponed indefinitely, would have required Legislative Council Staff to prepare business fiscal impact statements to analyze the potential direct economic effects of legislation on Colorado businesses.

State Employees and Retirement Plans

The General Assembly considered several bills related to state employees, including collective bargaining, state holidays, and the Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA).

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State employees. *House Bill 20-1153* creates the Colorado Partnership for Quality Jobs and Services Act to allow covered state employees to collectively bargain with the state's executive branch. The bill establishes a process for the state to enter into a partnership agreement with a certified employee organization for this purpose. The bill also creates the COVID Heroes Collaboration Fund, which may be used by state agencies to implement the Act. *House Bill 20-1048* enacts the "Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act of 2020", also known as the "CROWN Act of 2020." The bill includes anti-discrimination protections for employees in the state personnel system who have hairstyles commonly or historically associated with race. *Senate Bill 20-071* clarifies when state-owned vehicles may be parked overnight at the employee residences.

There are ten state holidays identified in Colorado law. *House Bill 20-1031* establishes Frances Xavier Cabrini Day as a state holiday on the first Monday in October and repeals Columbus Day as a state holiday.

Public Employees' Retirement Association. As part of the reforms under Senate Bill 18-200, the state must annually distribute \$225 million to PERA on July 1 each year until its pension plans are fully funded. *House Bill 20-1379* suspends the distribution of state funds that was scheduled to take place on July 1, 2020. *House Bill 20-1394* modifies the contribution rates in PERA's Judicial Division for FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22.

State Agencies and Procurement

The General Assembly considered a number of bills related to state agencies and buildings, contracts, and procurement.

State agencies and buildings. *Senate Bill 20-200* creates and implements the Colorado Secure Savings Program, with guidance from the Colorado Secure Savings Program Board

within the Office of the State Treasurer. The program aims to promote greater retirement savings for private sector employees in a convenient, low-cost, and portable manner. *House Bill 20-1039* creates the Online Transparency Task Force to recommend ways to enhance citizens' online access to rules and the rulemaking process, as well as to increase transparency of the rulemaking process through potential improvements to new or existing online resources. By January 1, 2021, the task force must submit a written report to the General Assembly. *Senate Bill 20-039* requires new signage in certain state-owned facilities to use an accessible icon with a more dynamic character. *House Bill 20-1138*, which was deemed postponed indefinitely, would have required state agencies to submit a list of its usable real property to the Office of the State Architect each year.

State procurement. *House Bill 20-1116* permits the Office of Economic Development and International Trade to renew its contract with the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) for up to five years to operate the Procurement Technical Assistance Program. PTAC is a nonprofit entity that provides assistance to small businesses in obtaining government contracts. *House Bill 20-1353*, which was postponed indefinitely, would have allowed state agencies to issue a request for proposals as any competitive solicitation method allowed by law. *House Bill 20-1294*, which was postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee, would have replaced the term "illegal alien" with "unauthorized worker" as it relates to state government contracts for services.

Open Records and Meetings

House Bill 20-1308, which was deemed lost in the House, would have clarified that email between elected officials that does not relate to the merits or substance of pending legislation is not subject to the Colorado Open Meetings Law.

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Recording and Notaries Public

Senate Bill 20-096 allows for the remote notarization of electronic documents and establishes requirements for notaries performing remote notarial acts, including remote systems, verification technology, validating credentials, assessing identity, making disclosures, and creating audio-video recordings. The bill prohibits remote notarizations for election records or records relating to wills or codicils.