



CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

AGENCY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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DENVER WOMEN'S COMMISSION

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John W. Hickenlooper
Mayor

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STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING WOMEN

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Rated</u>
LAW:			
1	Sandoval	Low Income Energy Assistance	+d,a,b,9,l,w,m,r
30	Shaffer	Family Friendly Courts Act	+v,d,z
201	Kester	Low Income Energy Assistance Funding	+l
202	Sandoval	Repeal of EBT Admin Fee	+d,a,9,l
1015	Romanoff	Medicaid Substance Abuse Treatment	+b,l,9,w,d,a
1025	Stafford	Presumptive Eligibility under Medicaid	+d,h,a,b,9,l,j,w,p
1035	Hall	More Access Sex Offender Registry	-s,v
1086	Plant	Restore Medicaid to Legal Immigrants	+h,l,9
1101	McGihon	Health Coverage Dependent Child	+h,b,l,j
1105	McGihon	Unemployment Benefit- Domestic Abuse	+v,9,d,k,a,b,l,j,w,z,m
1141	Harvey	Positive Birth Drug Test as Child Abuse	
1143	Borodkin	Task Force on Trafficking in Persons	+b,l,w,d,m
1157	Reisberg	Limit Supplemental Eval in Divorce	-v
1169	Todd	Housing Issues Victims Domestic Violence	+v,b,l,d,j,w
1171	Jahn	Appointments in Domestic Relations Cases	
1172	Jahn	Domestic Relations Appointments	
1194	Romanoff	Stable Means of Funding Budgetary Needs	+l,d,m,r
1247	Borodkin	Breast Cancer License Plate	+p
1262	Boyd	Tobacco Tax Implementation	+h,a
1269	Decker	Pregnant Woman Death Certificate	
1270	Cadman	Amber Alert for Abducted Fetus	
HJR1015	Paccione	Privacy for Domestic Violence Shelters	+v,l
VETOED:			
28	Veiga	Employment Discrimination	+b,9,l,k,j,w,d,z
1020	Cerbo	Unemployment Ins -Altern Base Period	+9,a,k,b,v,l,w,d,m
1042	Boyd	Emergency Contraception for Survivors	+d,n,p,k,s,b,v,l,w,z
1061	Merrifield	Landlord Tenant Relations	+o,l,m,a,r,9
KILLED:			
17	Windells	Criminal Engage in Sex with HIV	Sjud -d,p,n
21	Groff	Parental Leave School Activities	H3rd +9,l,w,a
140	Lamborn	Limiting Legal Implications of Marriage	Ssa -d
1072	Schultheis	Abortion Clinic Licensing	Hhhs - n,p,b,l,k,d
1106	Brophy	Unborn Child Pain Awareness	Hhhs -b,n,v,l,k,w,d,p
1155	Lundberg	Definition of Pregnancy	Hjud -n,p,b,l,w,d,m
1232	Boyd	Earned Income Tax Credit	Happ +l,d,9,k,a,w,o,r,f
1260	Crane	No Post Viability Abortion	Hjud -p,n
1271	Schultheis	Services for Legal Residents of the US	Hsa -l,9
1319	Solano	Child Care and Child Tax Credit	Hfin

*HHS=Health & Human Services; JUD=Judiciary; APP -Appropriations ; BLT=Business,Labor and Technology; BUS-Business Affairs and Labor ;lg= local government; sa=State Affairs; trans=transportation h=House s=Senate

**+=support, -=oppose

a=AFDC Coalition ; b=Business and Professional Women; d=Denver Women's Commission; f=Alliance of Professional Women; h=Colo Consumer Health Initiative; ; j=National Council Jewish Women; k= Colo Women's Agenda; l=Women's Lobby; o= Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; p=Planned Parenthood; m=League of Women Voters; n=NARAL; s=Colo Coal Against Sexual Assault; v=Colo Coalition Against Domestic Violence; w=Colorado NOW; z=ColoWomen's Bar Assn; 9= 9to5 Ntl Assn Working Women.

If your women's organization has taken a position on any of these bills, add its name to this list by contacting Chaer Robert at 720-913-8465 or fax 720-913-8470 or email robert@ci.denver.co.us. To identify your representative and senator, call your County Clerk's office or online at www.vote-smart.org. Denver residents call 720-913-8656. Updates of this are available online at www.denvergov.org/women For more information about the status of any bill call the Bill Room at 303-866-3055 or online at <http://www.leg.state.co.us>.

State Budget - HB 1194 is the primary vehicle to propose a fix for November's ballot. It does not raise tax rates, but allows the state to keep the money (Approx \$3. billion over 5 years) it raises under current tax rates for 6 years. HB 1350, HB 1333 and HJR 1057 spell out details. In year 6 allows the state to retain \$100 million above revenue limit for bond repayment & allows for a temporary income tax rate cut. \$125 million is dedicated to roads, schools and college construction and fire and police pensions. The remainder is evenly divided between K-12, higher ed and health care.

Earned Income Tax Credit would have made the State Earned Income Tax Credit permanent (but with a ten year sunset provision) and increase it from 10% to 20%. The EITC was originally passed to balance the (PERMANENT) tax reductions in the income tax rate in 1999 and 2000, which benefit middle and upper income families and individuals. Low wage working families generally do not earn enough to pay state income taxes, although they certainly pay sales tax, excise tax, fees and property taxes (through their rent). For the past 3 years the State EITC was not given, because there was no TABOR "excess revenues", though the permanent reduction in income tax rates still were in effect. The ballot measure to address the state budget crisis will abolish TABOR "excessive revenues" from which a conditional State EITC is funded.

Cigarette Tax Increase- The 64 cent per pack increase in the cost of cigarettes is earmarked for health care:

- 46% for public health insurance expansion
- 19 % for comprehensive primary care through community health centers
- 16 % for tobacco education, prevention and cessation
- 16% for prevention, early detection and treatment of cancer, cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases
- 3% to cities and counties, the old age pension and general to compensate for lost tax revenue.

Enacting legislation will pinpoint how the money will be distributed. \$175 million per year in new revenue could be a big shot in the arm for our anorexic Medicaid and public health programs.

Medicaid --Presumptive Eligibility —HB 1025 would restore coverage for Medicaid for pregnant women who appear financially eligible. Such coverage was abruptly cut off in Sept 2004, when HCPF Director amended the State Medicaid plan after noticing that legislative authority for the program ceased to exist when the Legislature revised Medicaid statutes in 1991. This issue will also be addressed in the yet to be introduced legislation to implement the Cigarette Tax Increase allocations. Currently (especially with CBMS delays) a woman might not be able to get Medicaid coverage for months, reducing her access to prenatal care. HB 1015 --Medicaid Substance Abuse Treatment - adds substance abuse treatment to Medicaid package. We are one of 3 states which excludes substance abuse treatment from Medicaid. The bill assumes it will save money within five years and otherwise repeals it.

Emergency Contraception for Survivors -- This bill passed the House last year, but was killed in a Senate Committee. HB 1042 requires hospitals to adopt protocols to inform rape survivors of the availability of emergency contraception and to offer the emergency contraception or refer the survivor to a pharmacy that does dispense it. EC can reduce the worry that a woman will become pregnant as a result of the rape. The bill exempts individual health care provider from being the one to provide the information, based on religious or moral grounds.

Unemployment Benefits---UI & Domestic Abuse --HB 1105 is the same as the bill Rep. McGihon introduced last year. It changes the requirement for a domestic violence victim to receive unemployment benefits from require documentation of the abuse AND to currently be in counseling, to requiring documentation of the abuse OR being in counseling. Although all individuals must be available for work in order to qualify for unemployment, the bill would exempt an individual from needing to report job search activities for 15 business days, giving her time to relocate and address legal, financial and other matters. HB 1020 UI-Alternative Base Period If a worker does not qualify for unemployment insurance when considering employment history for the year previous to the pass quarter, under this bill they could calculate under the most recent 4 past quarter. The current lag time was adopted pre-computers, when assessing employment information took months to compile. This bill would most benefit more recent reentrants to the work force.

Low Income Energy Assistance – SB 01 is currently similar to the one passed by the legislature last year, but vetoed by the governor. It would add a 25 cent/month fee on an electric bill, which people could chose to opt out from. TANF recipients have been added to those eligible for the funds this year, in addition to those on Old Age Pension, Aid to the Needy Disabled, etc. Energy Outreach assistance program this year has dropped the amount of aid per family by about \$100. per year. Currently their maximum aid is less than \$250. PER YEAR. SB 201 would authorize \$7. from mineral severance tax to be used this year only for low income energy assistance through LEAP.

Abortion HB 1072- Abortion Clinic Licensing adds 22 pages of regulations to abortion clinics. HB 1106-Unborn Child Pain Awareness would require abortion providers to tell a women, prior to having an abortion, that her "unborn child" feels pain and to ask if she would like the "unborn child" to receive anesthesia. HB 1155 changes definition of pregnancy in criminal abortion statute from when the fertilized egg implant on the uterine wall to from the time the sperm and egg meets.

Parental Leave School Activities- SB21 would allow up to 2 hours per month to a maximum of 15 hours per year unpaid leave from a job for a parent to attend parent-teacher conference and emergencies. Applies to employers of 50 or more.

Employment Discrimination—SB 28 would add "sexual orientation" and "gender variance" to classes protected from job discrimination.

Public Assistance—SB 202 repeals the \$1. monthly fee Colorado charge to receive public assistance

