



## 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 legislative session in Colorado was marked by unique challenges, including an increasingly unpredictable and divisive national political climate and a \$1.2 billion state budget shortfall. These fiscal constraints forced the state government to curtail many regulatory ambitions this legislative session. However, legislators found creative ways to advance policy through bills without fiscal notes. Vista Strategies anticipates more aggressive legislative sessions in 2026 and 2027, particularly in the areas of environmental and labor policy.

This session was broadly defined by legislation on housing, technology, labor, and health care, coupled with widespread budget tightening. Despite Democrats falling just short of a veto-proof supermajority, their control of both legislative chambers and the Governor's office shaped the session's direction. Notably, divisions emerged not only between Democrats and Republicans, but also between liberal and moderate Democrats.

This year, the Metro Mayors Caucus continued to be guided on policy matters by the experts at Colorado Municipal League (CML), which took positions on 85 bills this session. The Metro Mayors Caucus also brought on additional legislative support from Vista Strategies to monitor and facilitate participation in the legislative process for a smaller handful of bills. Key takeaways from the 2025 legislative session are that lawmakers continue to pursue policies on telecommunications, land use, election reform and public safety- all of which impact local governments and municipalities. Engaging with lawmakers during the off-session period will be important to discussions and future legislation in 2026.



## METRO MAYORS CAUCUS ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

**7**  
BILLS ENGAGED



**HB25-1056 - Local Government Permitting Wireless  
Telecommunication Facilities**

*Oppose*



**HB25-1096 - Automated Permits for Clean Energy Technology**

*Oppose*



**HB25-1147 - Fairness & Transparency in Municipal Court**

*Oppose*



**HB25-1169 - Housing Developments on Faith and Educational  
Land**

*Oppose*



**HB25-1261 - Consumer Construction Defect Action**

*Oppose*



**HB25-1272 - Construction Defects & Middle Market Housing**

*Support*



**HB25-1290 - Transit Worker Assault & Funding for Training**

*Support*

Below is a list of the highlights of legislation that MMC engaged on in the 2025 legislative session.

**HB 25-  
1290**

### **Transit Worker Assault & Funding for Training**

***Reps. William Lindstedt, Alex Valdez, Sens. Kyle Mullica, Barb Kirkmeyer***

This bill creates a specific criminal offense related to transit workers. It makes actions of assault towards a transit worker a third degree assault.

Outcome: This bill was supported by MMC and passed the General Assembly. It awaits the Governor's signature.

**HB 25-  
1056**

### **Local Government Permitting Wireless Telecommunications Facilities**

***Reps. Meghan Lukens, Jennifer Bacon, Sens. Dylan Roberts, Nick Hinrichsen***

This bill requires that telecommunications siting and construction applications be deemed approved if a local government fails to act within specific timeframes (60-120 days depending on the application type), while also setting procedures for tolling, incomplete applications, and prohibiting unnecessary permitting delays, with the law taking effect January 1, 2026, and not overriding general safety regulations.

Outcome: This bill was opposed by MMC but is heading to the Governor's desk for signature.

**HB 25-  
1096**

### **Automated Permits for Clean Energy Technology**

***Reps. Lesley Smith, Kyle Brown, Sens. Matt Ball, Cathy Kipp***

This bill mandates counties and municipalities with populations over 5,000 to adopt an automated platform for residential solar permitting, outlines eligibility for state funding and technical support, and updates the streamlined solar permitting and inspection grant program to support the implementation of such platforms and other residential electrification projects.

Outcome: MMC opposed this bill, however it is heading to the Governor's desk for signature.

HB 25-  
1147

## **Fairness & Transparency in Municipal Court**

*Reps. Mabrey, Elizabeth Velasco, Sens. Judy Amabile, Mike Weissman*

This bill limits municipal incarceration sentences to those matching comparable state offenses, prohibits mandatory minimums and increased penalties based on prior convictions, ensures defendants have the right to counsel, mandates open court proceedings, and requires virtual observation for in-custody cases, while also imposing restrictions on defense counsel payment structures in domestic violence cases.

Outcome: This bill was opposed by MMC, and while the bill did pass the General Assembly, it was vetoed by Governor Polis.

HB 25-  
1169

## **Housing Developments on Faith and Educational Land**

*Reps. Andrew Boesenecker, Javier Mabrey, Sens. Julie Gonzales, Tony Exum*

This bill requires subject jurisdictions, starting December 31, 2026, to allow residential development on qualifying properties through an administrative process with affordability requirements, limits restrictions based on height, density, and design standards, permits certain community uses within developments, and mandates notification to county assessors when such developments are approved.

Outcome: This bill was opposed by MMC and it failed to advance in the Senate, getting postponed until after the session ended. Vista Strategies anticipates it will return next year.

HB 25-  
1261

## **Consumers Construction Defect Action**

*Rep. Jennifer Bacon, Sens. Robert Rodriguez, Faith Winter*

This bill expands construction defect claim procedures by requiring construction professionals to disclose key project documents, awarding 8% prejudgment interest to prevailing residential defect claimants, voiding contract clauses that restrict group lawsuits or impose extra requirements, revising when defect claims arise for statute of limitation purposes, strengthening homeowners' associations' ability to litigate defects, and mandating construction insurance reporting by the department of regulatory agencies.

Outcome: This bill was opposed by MMC and was ultimately postponed indefinitely by the bill sponsors.

HB 25-  
1272

## **Construction Defects & Middle Market Housing**

*Reps. Shannon Bird, Andrew Boesenecker, Sens. James Coleman, Dylan Roberts*

This bill establishes a construction defect claim process for middle market multifamily housing by requiring affidavits from licensed professionals, creating a multifamily construction incentive program, and setting limitations and statutes of limitation for claims. It also mandates a duty to mitigate defects, prohibits insurers from canceling coverage based on defect claims, and updates the statute of limitations for construction defects. Additionally, it raises the threshold for homeowners' association approval to pursue defect claims and requires a fast-track approval process for multifamily condominium projects seeking state affordable housing fund assistance.

Outcome: This bill was supported by MMC, and was signed into law by the Governor. Several Mayors and Heidi Williams attended the signing ceremony.

# LEGISLATIVE THEMES & HIGHLIGHTS

**Housing:** HB25-1272 focused on construction defects and expanding middle-market housing. Despite nearly one hundred stakeholder meetings, the bill underwent significant amendments before passage. Proponents argue it will reduce litigation barriers and promote condo and townhome development. The Metro Mayors Caucus supported this initiative, and the bill has been signed by the Governor. Other bills of note in this space include HB25-1273, Residential Building Stair Modernization, which will cut through red tape and make it easier to build more homes that Coloradans can afford, and SB25-002, Regional Building Codes for Factory-Built Structures, which will make it easier to use modular housing to reduce costs and increase housing supply.

**Artificial Intelligence:** Following the passage of SB24-205 in 2024, which introduced first-in-the-nation AI consumer protection regulations, stakeholders sought to revise and improve the law in 2025. However, a new bill introduced late in the session failed to gain consensus, and negotiations collapsed days before adjournment. A joint letter from the Governor, Attorney General, and members of the federal congressional delegation urged a delayed implementation. Without legislative action or a special session, businesses must prepare for the original February 2026 implementation. Because of this, there has been discussion about a special session on this topic.

**Social Media:** Several bills addressed the regulation of social media platforms, particularly concerning youth protection and data privacy. HB25-1136, Protecting Minors on Social Media Act, aimed to restrict social media platforms from using addictive design features for users under 18, such as infinite scroll and autoplay, and required platforms to provide optional parental tools. The bill faced strong opposition from tech industry representatives and civil liberties groups, and was ultimately postponed indefinitely in committee. SB25-086 would have required social media companies to publish content moderation policies, submit annual reports detailing enforcement against illegal content, and respond to violations swiftly, including removing offending users within 24 hours. The bill also aimed to streamline law enforcement access to platform information. Although it passed both chambers with broad support, Governor Jared Polis vetoed the bill, citing concerns about free speech and user privacy. The Senate voted to override the veto, but the House did not, allowing the veto to stand.

**Labor:** Labor was another major theme of the 2025 legislative session, with SB25-005, Worker Protection and Collective Bargaining, which would have removed the second election required under the Labor Peace Act. This controversial bill was vetoed by the Governor. Other pro-worker proposals that moved forward this session include HB25-1001, Enforcement of Wage and Hour Laws, which expands the definition of "employer" to include individuals owning or controlling at least 25% of a business. It also enhances protections against wage theft, increases penalties for employee misclassification, and strengthens anti-retaliation measures. The bill passed both chambers and was sent to the Governor for signature. Protecting Workers from Extreme Temperatures, HB25-1286, would have required employers to implement safety measures for workers exposed to extreme temperatures, including providing rest breaks, access to shade or heated areas, and developing temperature-related injury and illness prevention plans. The bill did not move forward this session but may be back next year.

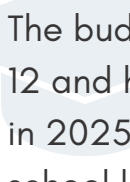
**Health Care:** Health care was a major focus of Colorado's 2025 legislative session. Lawmakers passed SB25-071, strengthening the federal 340B drug pricing program by protecting contract pharmacies and requiring transparency from hospitals on how 340B savings are used. Other key wins included the passage of SB25-118, which mandates prenatal coverage in insurance plans, and SB25-183, ensuring Medicaid reimbursement for abortion care under Amendment 79. However, HB25-1297, which aimed to expand the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise, failed to advance.



## BUDGET AND FISCAL POLICY

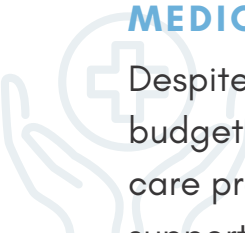
On April 28, 2025 Governor Polis signed a \$43.9 billion budget for the State of Colorado, which included a number of cuts to address the state's \$1.2 billion budget hole. The state's budget will take effect on July 1 and will run through June 30, 2029. It includes \$16 billion in general fund spending, which the legislature has the most control over. Cuts were made across 12 state agencies with some having impacts in the years to come.

### EDUCATION FUNDING



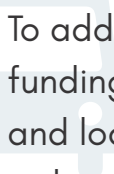
The budget includes increases for K-12 and higher education operations in 2025-26, but is far less than what school leaders say they need.

### MEDICAID & HEALTH CARE




Despite rising Medicaid costs, the budget preserves funding for health care programs, ensuring continued support for vulnerable populations.

### TRANSPORTATION CUTS



To address the budget shortfall, funding for transportation projects and local governments has been reduced.

### FEE ADJUSTMENTS



Lawmakers increased certain fees, including those for car owners and court users, to generate additional revenue.

### TABOR CONSTRAINTS

Colorado's unique law, the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) limits state spending increases, impacting the budget's flexibility. Legislation was filed directing the General Assembly to take legal action on the basis of the Constitutionality of TABOR, however it was introduced late in the session and did not move forward.

## WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"Every year, we work to go even further to deliver results for Coloradans, and that's what we've done during this legislative session. We are breaking down barriers to housing Coloradans can afford, increasing funding for law enforcement and safer communities, and investing in Colorado students and educators. With these new laws, we are pushing toward a more affordable, sustainable, and livable Colorado for everyone. Our state is proud to be a model for getting things done no matter what happens in Washington, and we are focused on doing what's best for Colorado. I appreciate all the collaboration and hard work from the members of the General Assembly to strengthen Colorado and look forward to seeing the impact of these important new laws," said **Governor Jared Polis**.

"Democrats delivered this year with a productive session focused on affordability and safeguarding our rights, freedoms and the Colorado way of life," said **Speaker Julie McCluskie, D-Dillon**. "From turning on the new school finance formula that invests in our students to saving people money on housing, health care and child care, we focused on what matters most to Coloradans. This session shows our strength and resiliency to protect taxpayers and core services like education, Medicaid and public safety in the face of threats from Washington and significant budget constraints."

"This session, we worked to make Colorado a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive - where anyone can work hard, afford basic necessities like a safe place to live and high-quality health care, and earn a good life," said **Senate President James Coleman, D-Denver**. "We prioritized solutions to protect our freedoms like reproductive health care and voting rights, create more opportunities for affordable homeownership and rentals, and passed policies to create communities safe from all kinds of violence. I'm proud of Colorado Democrats' successes to deliver results for all Coloradans."

"At the start of this session, we unveiled that suite of bills that, if passed, would've given the average Colorado family \$4,500 in annual savings," said **Colorado Senate Minority Leader Paul Lundeen, R-Fort Lupton**. "Tragically, but not surprisingly, Democrats chose to stand against the people of Colorado and our efforts to bring relief, opting instead to prioritize their own partisan agenda items."

"We were disappointed that things like the grocery bag fee or the retail delivery fee, which we consistently hear at the doors, was not taken seriously by the Democrats," **House Minority Leader Rose Pugliese, a Colorado Springs Republican**, said.





## LOOKING AHEAD

As we assess our strategy for engagement in the years ahead, the Metro Mayors Caucus may benefit from continued advocacy, education, and involvement with lawmakers, particularly regarding top tier priorities.

The gubernatorial race has begun to determine who will succeed Governor Polis. The race is primarily between Attorney General Phil Weiser and U.S. Senator Michael Bennet- both Democrats, and we expect continued Democratic leadership in this top role. Both candidates are more moderate than many national Democrats however their stances on many issues that impact local governments remain to be seen. Therefore building these relationships will be critically important, particularly as we approach the 2027 legislative session.

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## GET IN TOUCH



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## Bill Report: Metro Mayors Caucus

*Updated May 13, 2025*

Bill	Sponsors	Title	Last Action	Latest Version
<a href="#">CO 2025A SB 25-040</a>	<a href="#">Dylan Roberts</a> <a href="#">Cleave Simpson</a> <a href="#">Karen McCormick</a>	Future of Severance Taxes & Water Funding Task Force	House, May 12, 2025: Signed by the Speaker of the House	<a href="#">Final Act (05/12/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A SB 25-001</a>	<a href="#">Julie Gonzales</a> <a href="#">Jennifer Bacon</a> <a href="#">Junie Joseph</a>	Colorado Voting Rights Act	executive, May 12, 2025: Governor Signed	<a href="#">Final Act (05/06/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A SB 25-161</a>	<a href="#">Faith Winter</a> <a href="#">Iman Jodeh</a> <a href="#">William Lindstedt</a>	Transit Reform Senate Calendar: CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS (May 07, 2025), Position: 4	executive, May 8, 2025: Sent to the Governor	<a href="#">Final Act (05/08/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A SB 25-002</a>	<a href="#">Jeff Bridges</a> <a href="#">Tony Exum</a> <a href="#">Andrew Boesenecker</a>	Regional Building Codes for Factory-Built Structures	executive, May 8, 2025: Governor Signed	<a href="#">Signed Act (05/08/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A SB 25-272</a>	<a href="#">Faith Winter</a> <a href="#">Marc Catlin</a> <a href="#">Elizabeth Velasco</a>	Regional Transportation Authority Sales & Use Tax Exemption	House, May 7, 2025: Signed by the Speaker of the House	<a href="#">Final Act (05/07/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A HB 25-1291</a>	<a href="#">Jenny Willford</a> <a href="#">Meg Froelich</a> <a href="#">Faith Winter</a>	Transportation Network Company Consumer Protection Senate Calendar: (May 07, 2025), Position: 1	House, May 7, 2025: House Considered Senate Amendments - Result was to Concur - Repass	<a href="#">Rerevised (05/07/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A SB 25-163</a>	<a href="#">Lisa Cutter</a> <a href="#">Matt Ball</a> <a href="#">Kyle Brown</a>	Battery Stewardship Programs	Senate, May 6, 2025: Senate Considered House Amendments - Result was to Concur - Repass	<a href="#">Rerevised (05/06/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A HB 25-1290</a>	<a href="#">William Lindstedt</a> <a href="#">Alex Valdez</a> <a href="#">Kyle Mullica</a>	Transit Worker Assault & Funding for Training	executive, May 6, 2025: Sent to the Governor	<a href="#">Final Act (05/06/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A HB 25-1272</a>	<a href="#">Shannon Bird</a> <a href="#">Andrew Boesenecker</a> <a href="#">James Coleman</a>	Construction Defects & Middle Market Housing	executive, May 6, 2025: Sent to the Governor	<a href="#">Final Act (05/06/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A HB 25-1212</a>	<a href="#">Manny Rutinel</a> <a href="#">Matt Soper</a> <a href="#">Lisa Cutter</a>	Public Safety Protections Artificial Intelligence	House, May 5, 2025: House Second Reading Laid Over to 05/09/2025 - No Amendments	<a href="#">Introduced (02/11/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A HB 25-1169</a>	<a href="#">Andrew Boesenecker</a> <a href="#">Javier Mabrey</a> <a href="#">Julie Gonzales</a>	Housing Developments on Faith and Educational Land	Senate, May 5, 2025: Senate Second Reading Special Order - Laid Over to 05/08/2025 - No Amendments	<a href="#">Reengrossed (03/17/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A SB 25-204</a>	<a href="#">Marc Catlin</a> <a href="#">Matt Ball</a> <a href="#">Michael Carter</a>	Revision to Local Government Utility Relocation Statute	executive, May 2, 2025: Sent to the Governor	<a href="#">Final Act (05/02/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A HB 25-1208</a>	<a href="#">Steven Woodrow</a> <a href="#">Alex Valdez</a> <a href="#">Judy Amabile</a>	Local Governments Tip Offsets for Tipped Employees	executive, May 2, 2025: Sent to the Governor	<a href="#">Final Act (05/01/2025)</a>
<a href="#">CO 2025A HB 25-1198</a>	<a href="#">Meg Froelich</a> <a href="#">Kyle Brown</a> <a href="#">Faith Winter</a>	Regional Planning Roundtable Commission	Senate, May 2, 2025: Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments	<a href="#">Final Act (05/12/2025)</a>

CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1080</u>	<u>Meghan Lukens</u> <u>Matt Soper</u> <u>Nick Hinrichsen</u>	Wireless Telephone Infrastructure Deployment Incentives	executive, May 2, 2025: Sent to the Governor	<u>Final Act</u> <u>(05/01/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1039</u>	<u>Brianna Titone</u> <u>Lesley Smith</u> <u>Dylan Roberts</u>	Commercial Vehicle Muffler Requirements	Senate, May 1, 2025: Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments	<u>Final Act</u> <u>(05/12/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1060</u>	<u>Matt Soper</u> <u>Chad Clifford</u> <u>Barbara Kirkmeyer</u>	Electronic Fence Detection Systems	executive, Apr 30, 2025: Governor Signed	<u>Signed Act</u> <u>(04/30/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1303</u>	<u>Andrew Boesenecker</u> <u>Meghan Lukens</u> <u>Dylan Roberts</u>	Funding for Motor Vehicle Collision Prevention	Senate, Apr 29, 2025: Senate Committee on Finance Postpone Indefinitely	<u>Reengrossed</u> <u>(04/21/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1096</u>	<u>Lesley Smith</u> <u>Kyle Brown</u> <u>Matt Ball</u>	Automated Permits for Clean Energy Technology	Senate, Apr 28, 2025: Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments	<u>Rerevised</u> <u>(04/28/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1147</u>	<u>Javier Mabrey</u> <u>Elizabeth Velasco</u> <u>Judy Amabile</u>	Fairness & Transparency in Municipal Court	House, Apr 23, 2025: House Considered Senate Amendments - Result was to Concur - Repass	<u>Rerevised</u> <u>(04/04/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1056</u>	<u>Meghan Lukens</u> <u>Jennifer Bacon</u> <u>Dylan Roberts</u>	Local Government Permitting Wireless Telecommunications Facilities	House, Apr 15, 2025: House Consideration of First Conference Committee Report result was to Adopt Committee Report - Repass	<u>Rerevised</u> <u>(03/18/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HJR 25-1023</u>	<u>Sean Camacho</u> <u>Lorena Garcia</u> <u>Lindsey Daugherty</u>	Require General Assembly TABOR Constitutionality Lawsuit House Calendar: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION(S) (Wednesday, May 7th, 2025), Position: 1	House, Apr 10, 2025: House Third Reading Laid Over Daily - No Amendments	<u>Introduced</u> <u>(03/31/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1093</u>	<u>Rebekah Stewart</u> <u>Carlos Barron</u> <u>Matt Ball</u>	Limitations on Local Anti-Growth Land Use Policies	executive, Mar 31, 2025: Governor Signed	<u>Signed Act</u> <u>(03/31/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1077</u>	<u>Sheila Lieder</u> <u>Naquetta Ricks</u> <u>Dylan Roberts</u>	Backflow Prevention Devices Requirements	executive, Mar 28, 2025: Governor Signed	<u>Signed Act</u> <u>(03/28/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1261</u>	<u>Jennifer Bacon</u> <u>Robert Rodriguez</u> <u>Faith Winter</u>	Consumers Construction Defect Action	House, Mar 18, 2025: House Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government Postpone Indefinitely	<u>Introduced</u> <u>(02/18/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1030</u>	<u>Junie Joseph</u> <u>Rebekah Stewart</u> <u>Lisa Cutter</u>	Accessibility Standards in Building Codes	executive, Mar 11, 2025: Governor Signed	<u>Signed Act</u> <u>(03/11/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1019</u>	<u>Emily Sirota</u> <u>Nick Hinrichsen</u>	Third-Party Administration of Division of Housing Programs	executive, Mar 7, 2025: Governor Signed	<u>Signed Act</u> <u>(03/07/2025)</u>
CO 2025A <u>HB 25-1032</u>	<u>Manny Rutinel</u>	Improving Infrastructure to Reduce Homelessness	House, Feb 19, 2025: House Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government Refer Amended to Appropriations	<u>Introduced</u> <u>(01/08/2025)</u>