

Colorado Legislative Update – Mid-Session Report

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The 2013 Colorado legislative session is now at its halfway point. While much of the media attention has focused on higher profile issues, the Colorado business community has been concerned about legislation impacting Colorado businesses. Legislation affecting enterprise zones, business personal property tax exemptions, employment discrimination, and FMLA expansion will affect many Colorado companies.

We still anticipate significant bills will be introduced in the next two weeks impacting workers compensation, employee benefits during a lockout, telecommunications, renewable portfolio standards, carbon emissions, and state procurement contracts. We also expect approximately 15 bills to be introduced which will affect the oil and gas industry. Below is a table detailing important pieces of legislation for Colorado employers and business interests.

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of Holland & Hart's Colorado Governmental Affairs practice group if we can answer specific questions. Holland & Hart provides clients with a full range of legislative and regulatory services in Colorado which includes establishing a legislative strategy, lobbying specific legislation and multi-state legislative and regulatory monitoring.

2013 Colorado Introduced and Proposed Legislation

Topic	Bill #	Summary	Status
Employment	HB-1222 FMLA Expansion	As amended, expands FMLA leave to civil unions and domestic partnerships. Introduced bill expanded leave to a broad group of relatives.	Passed House 3rd Reading
Employment	Employee Lockout	Would provide unemployment insurance trust fund benefits to employees during a strike regardless of which side caused the strike. Would cover all unionized workers in the state.	Not yet introduced
Employment	Workers Comp	Changes to worker's compensation statute to provide	Not yet introduced

		increased doctor choice, repeal on penalty on indemnity for workers violating safety rules.	
Energy	HB-1269 Conflict on COGCC	Prohibits a newly appointed commissioner of the COGCC from being an employee of an oil and gas company.	Introduced
Energy	HB-1267 Oil & Gas Penalties	Increases max fine for non significant violations increases from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and fines for violations that have a significant impact on health and safety increase from \$5,000 to \$15,000.	Introduced
Energy	Other Oil and Gas	Up to 15 additional oil and gas bills are expected to be introduced. The bills will deal with setbacks, local control, governance of regulations, water quality, and public health impacts.	Not yet introduced
Environment	RPS Increase /Carbon Decrease	Legislation would increase the state's renewable energy standard portfolio requirements from 33% to 40%. There is also a chance that a cap and trade bill will be introduced which would target carbon emissions.	Not yet introduced
Tax Policy	HB-1142 Enterprise Zone Reforms	Will limit EZ Investment Tax Credit to 750K per year with a 15 year carry forward. Requires a review of EZ designation every 10 years.	Passed House Finance Committee .

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