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The seventh week of this legislative session was cut short by one day as the General Assembly observed President's Day on Monday.

The majority of attention this week was around the recent school shooting in Florida, which hits close to home here in Colorado. House Democrats killed three Republican pro-gun bills in House State Affairs Wednesday afternoon, after an anti-gun rally was held outside the Capitol. [HB18-1037](#)—Concealed Handguns on School Grounds—by House Majority Leader Neville, would have allowed people with concealed handgun permits to bring their permitted guns onto school campuses. [HB18-1074](#)—Deadly Force Against Intruder at a Business—by Representative Everett, would have extended the right to use deadly force against an intruder under certain conditions to include owners, managers, and employees of a business. [HB18-1015](#)—Repeal Ammunition Magazine Prohibition—by Representatives Humphrey and Saine, would have repealed the prohibition against certain ammunition magazines in the state. The committee hearing took seven hours long, as parents and students from across the state showed up to provide testimony. All three bills died in the committee by party line vote.

Noticeably absent from the list of bills introduced so far this year is PERA reform as promised by both the House and Senate. PERA—the state's public pension system—is not actuarially sound and has been losing money for the last few years. The longer the General Assembly waits to address this issue, the worse the situation gets. PERA's current unfunded liability is around \$32 billion by one measure and \$51 billion by another. PERA's board itself has provided the legislature with proposals for reform. PERA reform will require agreement on a variety of issues, including: what rate of return to assume on PERA investments, how to allocate increases in contributions to the fund among employees and employers, if the retirement age should be raised, and whether inflation adjustments should be frozen. Finally, Republicans believe that the governance of PERA needs changing because too many board members are PERA recipients and that in the future public employees should be offered a defined contribution plan as well as or in lieu of a defined benefit plan. The State Treasurer, Walker Stapleton, has made PERA reform the centerpiece of his gubernatorial campaign. This complicates reform efforts because it politicizes a debate that is already political.