



Nexus Weekly Legislative Report **April 27, 2018**

The Colorado General Assembly convened for the 16th week of the 2018 session. There is about a week and half left in the legislative session. The House chamber had a lot of work to do this week. Many of the bills—notably PERA reform—are still waiting for action in the House. The chambers have had to meet earlier in the morning and adjourn late into the afternoon as around 300 bills still need to receive at least one public hearing.

[SB18-200](#)—Modifications to PERA to Eliminate Unfunded Liability —by Representatives KC Becker and Pabon was scheduled for second reading on the House floor Monday. It was then laid over until Wednesday. Majority Leader Becker, sponsor of the bill, brought it up for second reading without telling her Democratic caucus. The Democrats were scrambling on the floor to figure out which amendments they supported. They couldn't reach consensus as a caucus, so in the middle of the debate the majority leader laid over the bill until Monday, April 30th. House and Senate members continue to receive political pressure from PERA recipients, especially the teacher's union. Teachers came down by the thousands on Thursday and Friday at the Capitol to lobby for salary increases and overall more education funding support. This is making the PERA reform negotiations even more important.

There have been many health care transparency bills run this year. These bills would have required fee disclosure reports by pharmacy manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers and health insurers to the General Assembly. All of them have made it out of the Democratic controlled House chamber but will most likely die in the Senate. Much of the opposition to those bills from legislators were that they didn't look at the entire health care fee chain. [HB18-1358](#)—Health Care Charges Billing Required Disclosures—by Representatives Beckman and Foote and Senators Aguilar and Lundberg, was introduced late into the session in response to the opposition to the other more narrowly focused transparency bills. This bill would have required health insurers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers, EMTs, hospitals and Planned Parenthood to include in their billing to consumers the itemized fees within that facility. HB 1358 was heard in the House Health, Insurance and Environment committee early Friday morning before floorwork, where it was killed by a vote of 12-1 by both Democrats and Republicans.

Senate and House leadership moved forward on two concurrent resolutions to refer ballot measures to voters in this year's November election in order to amend our constitution around congressional redistricting and legislative reapportionment. There is a new census coming up in 2020. The change in population in the state will most likely result in another congressional district for the state being formed. This has caused the leaders of the General Assembly and political community to seek reform for Colorado's current redistricting and reapportionment process. The ballot measure, if passed, would create two commissions with balanced political representation to oversee our congressional districts. In order to become a ballot measure, the concurrent resolutions will need the approval of 24 in the Senate and 44 in the House.