



**COLORADO**

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Governor Jared Polis

Policy & Research

**March 14, 2021**

# Legislative Update

## **Older Coloradans Act, HB22-1035**

- Representatives Young and Bradfield, Senators Ginal and Rankin
- Passed Senate 30-3 on March 4
- House accepted Senate amendment on March 8
- Sent to Governor

## **Healthcare Facility Visitation, SB22-053**

- Senator Sonnenberg and Representative Pelton
- Essential caregiver bills that requires health facilities to allow for at least one visitor
- Applies to skilled nursing, assisted living, and hospitals
- Passed out of State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee February 24 and waits for action in the Appropriations

# Legislative Update

## **Public Employees Retirement Association, HB22-1057 and HB22-1101**

- 1057: Representatives Bradfield and McLachlan, Senators Zenzinger and Woodward
- 1101: Representatives McLachlan and Catlin, Senators Sonnenberg and Zenzinger
- Both bills allow for certain professionals - teachers, substitute teachers, school nurses, paraprofessionals - to re-enter in rural and/or shortage areas without decrease to retirement benefits
- Both sent to Governor
- PERA historically opposes any bills that increase their liability

## **Transportation Network Companies and Medicaid NMT, HB22-1114**

- Representatives Larson and A. Valdez
- Working on amendments that will direct HCPF to develop an implementation feasibility plan with TNC's
- In first committee on March 15

# Skilled Nursing - State Attention

## Skilled Nursing Funding and Requirements, HB22-1247

- Representatives Herod and McCluskie and Senators Rankin and Hansen
- Directs payments for SNFs with high % of Medicaid beds
- Directs HCPF to engage with the stakeholders to produce a report regarding suggestions for permanently changing the Medicaid nursing facility provider reimbursement policy in Colorado, due to the legislature by November 1, 2022
- Passed out of Public and Behavioral Health and Human Services Committee on March 1 and waits in Appropriations

## Covid-19 Roadmap Forward - Engaging the Federal Government in National Endemic Response, Pandemic Readiness, and Needed Reforms

- Outdated payment models, minimal innovations in models of care, increasingly complex medical and behavioral health needs, and a multitude of impacts from the pandemic must be addressed holistically and from a solutions-based perspective

# National Governors Association Collaborative

## Next Generation of Healthcare Workforce Development

- One of four states selected: Colorado, California, Wyoming, and Missouri
- Direct care workers to behavioral health providers to advanced practice providers
- Led by Governor and Lieutenant Governor's Offices with cross agency coordination among CDHS/BHA, HCPF, CDLE, CDHE, DORA, and CDPHE
- Planning focused opportunity with technical assistance and support from NGA staff and national leaders
- Work will run from March until October

# Skilled Nursing - Federal Attention

## White House Fact Sheet: Protecting Seniors by Improving Safety and Quality of Care in the Nation's Nursing Homes

- Enhance accountability and oversight
- Increase transparency
- Workforce development and staffing ratios
- Emergency preparedness and readiness

## Department of Justice and Colorado Olmstead Violations

- DOJ issued findings to Colorado on March 3
- Olmstead violations under Title of ADA - overreliance on congregate residential care settings
- Short term: will work with DOJ and federal partners to come in into compliance
- Long term: need to develop a stronger and more comprehensive network of community-based care for Coloradans living with disabilities



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Questions?



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