Final 2026 Colorado Legislative Session Report

A comprehensive review for the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado

Second Regular Session · Seventy-fifth General Assembly
Sine Die: May 13, 2026

Prepared by Katie Wolf, Lobbyist · Up to date as of the morning of June 4th, 2026

A note on this report

This report is interactive. Every bill number in Section 2 links directly to the official bill record at leg.colorado.gov, and every headline in Section 3 links to the original news coverage. Bill numbers cited throughout Section 1 are also clickable.

Session at a Glance

75	$49.5B	$1.5B	22
Bills tracked	FY 2026-27 budget	General Fund shortfall	Active ACEC of Colorado positions

Executive Summary

This is Howes Wolf, LLC's comprehensive final report for the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado (ACEC of Colorado) on the 2026 Colorado legislative session. It covers the 75 bills tracked on the association's behalf, a thematic overview of the session through an engineering-industry lens, a complete bill-by-bill record with bill position and the outcome of each measure, and curated news coverage of the storylines that shaped the year. The session was defined by a severe budget shortfall, an aggressive gubernatorial veto posture, and a consequential set of fights over business taxes, energy, and transportation funding.

Section 1 · Comprehensive Session Overview

The Bottom Line

The 2026 session unfolded under the shadow of a roughly **$1.5 billion General Fund shortfall** that crowded out new spending and sharpened every fight over revenue. Of the 75 bills ACEC of Colorado tracked, the association's defining battle was HB 26-1222, the income-tax decoupling measure that would have reversed favorable federal R&D and depreciation treatment for engineering firms. Its own sponsors pulled it in Senate committee under sustained pressure from the business community, a marquee win for ACEC of Colorado and its allies. ACEC of Colorado

> also helped defeat HB 26-1054 and SB 26-102, but lost ground on HB 26-1223 and HB 26-1430, both of which cleared the building and await the Governor's decision. With a lame-duck Governor holding an active veto pen and a wave of legislative term limits reshaping leadership, the runway into 2027 is already taking shape.

Lawmakers' 2026 Meeting Yielded Mixed Results for the Profession

Colorado's Second Regular Session of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly convened in January, and adjourned sine die on **May 13, 2026**. Legislators introduced 626 bills and ultimately killed more than 180 of them, a higher-than-usual casualty rate driven less by ideology than by arithmetic: there was simply no money to absorb new obligations. For the engineering community the session produced a split verdict. The most dangerous tax proposals were either neutralized or pulled, several pro-infrastructure measures advanced, and a pair of supported nuclear bills fell short, while a consequential road-funding maneuver and a surviving corporate-tax bill moved through despite ACEC of Colorado's opposition. The pages that follow trace those outcomes' theme by theme, then document every tracked bill individually in Section 2.

A Budget That Crowded Out Everything Else

The session's center of gravity was the FY 2026-27 budget. The Long Bill, HB 26-1410, set total appropriations at roughly **$49.5 billion all funds**, with about $17.1 billion from the General Fund. Closing the projected $1.5 billion shortfall consumed the Joint Budget Committee for months. The gap was driven principally by Medicaid caseload and cost growth colliding with the TABOR revenue cap, which limits how much of the state's own revenue lawmakers may actually spend. Because the cap forces excess collections back to taxpayers as refunds, the General Assembly could not simply grow its way out of the hole; it had to cut, defer, and sweep. That dynamic explains why so many otherwise reasonable bills carrying fiscal notes never survived: the appropriations clause became a kill switch. It also explains the year's recurring interest in TABOR-exempt enterprises and fee-based financing as a way to fund programs outside the cap.

The Corporate Tax Package and the Business Climate

No theme mattered more to ACEC of Colorado members than the cluster of bills targeting business tax expenditures. HB 26-1222 would have decoupled Colorado from four recently expanded federal deductions, including immediate expensing of domestic research under new IRC section 174A and 100 percent bonus depreciation, raising taxable income for capital-intensive and research-active firms. Its companion, HB 26-1221, targeted a broader slate of expenditures. Both bills were pulled by their own sponsors in the Senate Finance Committee in mid-May and postponed indefinitely under concentrated pressure from the business community. ACEC of Colorado was an active part of that coalition. The defeat of HB 26-1222 in particular, the association's top-priority bill, removed the most consequential tax threat the profession faced all session and ranks among ACEC of Colorado's signal victories of 2026. HB 26-1223, however, survived: it tightens the treatment of certain insurance and financial deductions and passed both chambers, leaving it on the Governor's desk. ACEC of Colorado engaged all three, securing an amend, and ultimately an oppose posture on the bill of greatest direct consequence and watching the Governor's stance do much of the work on the rest.

Energy, Data Centers, and the Strain on the Grid

Energy policy was unusually active, reflecting anxiety about load growth from electrification and data centers. SB 26-102, which would have created a regulatory and tax framework for large data centers, died, as did the related HB 26-1030, which would have created an incentive program for data centers. The session's two nuclear measures, both of which ACEC of Colorado supported, also fell in the House Appropriations Committee in the final days. HB 26-1337 would have made the Colorado Energy Office the state's nuclear permitting coordinator and opened a path for utility-funded site studies, and SB 26-045 would have built a nuclear workforce and education pipeline at the Colorado School of Mines. Both were laid over rather than enacted, a disappointment for firms positioning for next-generation power work, though the underlying interest in nuclear is likely to return. Transmission and siting questions surfaced in measures touching the Public Utilities Commission and renewable-facility permitting, and SB 26-142 advanced thermal energy networks. For a profession that designs and builds this infrastructure, the session still pointed to a multi-year pipeline in generation, transmission, and grid modernization.

Construction, Contracts, and the Built Environment

Several bills spoke directly to how engineering and construction work is contracted and performed. HB 26-1054, which ACEC of Colorado opposed, would have expanded liability and obligations around construction worker safety in ways the association viewed as duplicative and litigation-inviting; it died. SB 26-093, concerning workers' compensation verification, advanced over ACEC of Colorado's objection and awaits the Governor's signature. HB 26-1415, touching contractor certification, also failed. Taken together, the construction-sector docket ended better than it began for the profession, with the most burdensome mandates stalled and a manageable set of compliance changes left standing.

Transportation and Infrastructure Funding

The year's signature infrastructure fight was HB 26-1430, a transportation-funding measure that ACEC of Colorado opposed. The bill interacts with a citizen effort, Initiative 175, that the Colorado Contractors Association is backing toward the November ballot – of which ACEC of Colorado was an early listed supporter; supporters submitted roughly 180,000 signatures in late May and will more than likely qualify for the ballot. Critics, ACEC of Colorado among them, argued the legislative vehicle would blunt or complicate the initiative's dedicated road funding; and potentially transportation funding in general if passed. However, the bill was effective to thin the supporters for Initiative 175, and ACEC of Colorado did pull their support of the Initiative, will actively opposing HB26-1430 as well. The bill passed and awaits the Governor's signature – however his office was actively involved in the bill's passage, so signature is merely a formality. On the affirmative side, ACEC of Colorado supported HB 26-1338, a water-infrastructure financing measure of direct relevance to member firms, which also cleared the building. Transit-oriented measures and rail planning rounded out a transportation portfolio that, funding mechanics aside, points to sustained demand for design and construction services.

Water and the Environment

Water remained a perennial priority. Beyond HB 26-1338, the docket included measures on water-quality financing, stormwater, and supply planning that ACEC of Colorado monitored for their engineering implications. HB 26-1145, which ACEC of Colorado supported, advanced water-related

work of interest to member firms. Environmental permitting and siting questions, especially where they intersected energy and transmission, carried direct consequences for project timelines and design scope. None of the environmental measures imposed the kind of sweeping new mandate that would reshape practice, but collectively they confirmed water and resilience as durable sources of engineering demand.

The Governor's Veto Pen and a Lame-Duck Dynamic

An unusual political overlay shaped the session's final act. Governor Polis, in his last full year, has signaled willingness to veto aggressively, with reporting suggesting 20 or more vetoes possible and an early batch already issued. It is worth distinguishing that posture from the fate of the business-tax rollbacks: HB 26-1221 and HB 26-1222 were not vetoed but pulled by their own sponsors in committee under pressure from the business community, an outcome ACEC of Colorado helped engineer. The Governor's pen still matters greatly for bills that did pass. The politics grew more charged after he commuted the sentence of former Mesa County clerk Tina Peters on May 15, two days after sine die, drawing a censure from his own party. For ACEC of Colorado the practical takeaway is that the executive branch, not just the legislature, will determine the fate of several bills still awaiting signature, including HB 26-1223 and HB 26-1430.

Leadership Transitions Reshaping 2027

Term limits and political ambition will remake the Capitol's leadership before the next session. Speaker Julie McCluskie and Majority Leader Monica Duran are term-limited out of the House, although ML Duran is running for the Seante. In the Senate, several senior members including Senators Robert Rodriguez, Lisa Cutter, and Julie Gonzales are departing, and Senator Bridges is pursuing the state treasurer's office while Representative Sirota eyes a Senate run. The result will be a markedly different cast of committee chairs and floor leaders in 2027, with new relationships to build and new policy instincts to learn. ACEC of Colorado’s early investment in these incoming leaders will shape the association's effectiveness in the next General Assembly.

Looking Ahead to 2027

Expect the tax-expenditure debate to return, likely in a form recalibrated around a new Governor's priorities after the 2026 election. The Initiative 175 road-funding question heads to voters in November and will frame the 2027 transportation conversation regardless of outcome. Energy load growth, nuclear development, and grid investment will keep generating engineering demand and legislative attention. ACEC of Colorado enters the interim (and election cycle) with its top tax threat defeated, a clear set of relationships to build among incoming leaders, and a watching brief on the bills still sitting on the Governor's desk.

Section 2 · Bill-by-Bill Detail

Every bill ACEC of Colorado tracked this session, organized by strategic priority and then by position. Bill numbers link to the official record at leg.colorado.gov.

Priority Outcomes

The bills that most directly shaped ACEC OF COLORADO's session, by impact and engagement.

HB 26-1222 Modify Tax Expenditures

Sponsors: Lorena García, Karen McCormick, Cathy Kipp

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: AMEND/ OPPOSE **OUTCOME: DIED**

What it does: Would have decoupled Colorado income tax from four recently expanded federal deductions: the broadened business interest deduction, 100% first-year bonus depreciation, the new qualified production property deduction, and immediate domestic research and experimental expensing under new IRC section 174A. The added revenue would have funded a new family affordability tax credit.

ACEC of Colorado impact: This was ACEC of Colorado's top-priority bill. As introduced, it would have raised state taxable income for capital-intensive and research-active engineering firms by reversing the favorable federal R&D and depreciation treatment. ACEC of Colorado carried an amend position to try and take narrow approach to address concerns but ultimately joined and worked with the business coalition that ultimately persuaded the sponsors to kill the bill in committee. Its defeat removed the single largest tax threat to member firms this session and stands as one of the association's clearest victories of the year.

Status: Reengrossed May 4, 2026. The bill's own sponsors moved to postpone it indefinitely in the Senate Finance Committee on May 11, 2026, pulling it under sustained pressure from the business community rather than at the Governor's hand. The vehicle was dead, alongside its companion HB 26-1221. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1054 Protections for Worker Safety

Sponsors: Manny Rutinel, Elizabeth Velasco, Katie Wallace

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: OPPOSE **OUTCOME: DIED**

What it does: Would have created a state-level general duty clause requiring Colorado employers to keep workplaces free from recognized hazards, mirroring the federal OSHA general duty clause, with independent state enforcement and a private right of action allowing workers and worker organizations to file civil suits and seek injunctions halting work.

ACEC of Colorado impact: A defeat ACEC of Colorado actively secured. The private right of action and injunction authority would have created significant new liability and stop-work exposure for engineering and construction firms. ACEC of Colorado added its name to the coalition opposition fact sheet and prepared testimony.

Status: Reached the Senate Appropriations preamended version May 8, 2026, then was lost on Senate Third Reading with amendments on May 13, 2026, the final day of session. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1223 Modifying Certain Tax Expenditures

Sponsors: Andrew Boesenecker, Steven Woodrow, Matt Ball

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: OPPOSE **OUTCOME: AWAITING**

What it does: Repeals the downloaded software sales and use tax exemption beginning January 1, 2027, making software available for repeated sale or license taxable as tangible personal property, with carve-outs for negotiated and custom licenses. Creates a new refundable family affordability tax credit calibrated to the roughly $92 million in annual revenue raised.

ACEC of Colorado impact: A loss for the sector. Engineering firms rely on licensed CAD, simulation, and project software acquired by download or remote access, much of which becomes subject to sales and use tax starting in 2027, raising operating costs.

Status: Passed the Senate on Third Reading without amendments May 13, 2026 and was enrolled for the Governor. This was the surviving piece of the three-bill tax package after HB 26-1221 and HB 26-1222 were withdrawn. · Effective date: January 1, 2027

HB 26-1430 Transportation Funding Adjustments

Sponsors: Andrew Boesenecker, Emily Sirota, Judy Amabile

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: OPPOSE **OUTCOME:** AWAITING

What it does: Contingent on voter approval of Initiative 175, reduces the gasoline excise tax, the special fuel excise tax, certain vehicle registration fees, and road usage fees from 2027 through 2030, and creates a support road transportation enterprise to hold and redistribute dedicated revenue, with allocations of 60% to the state highway fund, 23% to counties, and 17% to cities.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A loss for the sector. The measure is designed to neutralize Initiative 175, the road-funding constitutional amendment backed by the Colorado Contractors Association, by canceling out its budget effect. ACEC of Colorado opposed the maneuver as a check on new dedicated infrastructure dollars.
Status: Final Act May 22, 2026; sent to the Governor May 26, 2026. Initiative 175 backers submitted more than 180,000 signatures on May 27, 2026 and have until June 15 to decide whether to withdraw. · Effective date: January 1, 2027

SB 26-093 Workers' Compensation Insurance Coverage Verification

Sponsors: Tom Sullivan, Mandy Lindsay, Tisha Mauro

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: OPPOSE **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Prohibits a governmental entity from issuing or renewing a construction permit for a project costing more than $1 million unless the applicant files a signed declaration verifying that the applicant, the general contractor, and every subcontractor at any tier maintains valid workers' compensation coverage or has rejected it. Requires verification before work begins and authorizes permit revocation for violations.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A loss, though the final version was narrowed. Amendments confined the bill to a declaration-based system for large construction projects and excluded special districts and DORA-regulated professions, reducing the compliance burden on engineering firms.
Status: Final Act May 21, 2026; sent to the Governor May 22, 2026. Reshaped from a broad permit-and-license verification regime into a narrower declaration-based compliance requirement. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

SB 26-102 Large-Load Data Centers

Sponsors: Cathy Kipp, Kyle Brown

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: OPPOSE **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have created requirements for large-load data centers, defined by 30 to 60 megawatt thresholds, including a mandate that operators acquire renewable electricity to match 100% of annual consumption beginning in 2031 and meet an hourly-matching requirement set by the Public Utilities Commission.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A defeat ACEC of Colorado supported and planned to testify on. The aggressive renewable and hourly-matching mandates were viewed as a deterrent to data-center investment and the engineering, civil, electrical, and infrastructure work that follows it.
Status: Introduced February 11, 2026. Postponed indefinitely at the sponsor's request by the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee on May 11, 2026, four days after the competing HB 26-1030 died. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1338 2026 Water Projects Bill

Sponsors: Karen McCormick, Ty Winter, Dylan Roberts

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME: SIGNED**

What it does: Appropriates Colorado Water Conservation Board construction fund money for FY 2026-27 across satellite monitoring, floodplain mapping, weather modification permitting, the Colorado Mesonet, water forecasting, decision support systems, watershed restoration, and Upper Colorado River planning, and authorizes a $151.5 million loan from the severance tax perpetual base fund.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported priority. The annual projects bill sustains the funding pipeline for water, wastewater, stormwater, and flood infrastructure that drives demand for civil, environmental, and water-resource engineering across the state.
Status: Final Act May 27, 2026; sent to the Governor May 28, 2026. The General Affairs Committee recommended support and the Board approved by email vote. · Effective date: July 1, 2026

SB 26-141 Wildlife Collision Prevention

Sponsors: Dylan Roberts, Cleave Simpson, Julie McCluskie

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME: SIGNED**

What it does: Beginning January 1, 2027, authorizes an optional collision prevention fee collected at vehicle registration, which an individual may decline without affecting registration. Proceeds fund wildlife crossings and related transportation improvements, with the statewide bridge and tunnel enterprise leading public outreach and customer-facing materials.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported win. Wildlife crossing structures generate civil, structural, and transportation engineering work. ACEC OF COLORADO's name and logo appear on the supporting fact sheet, which the Board approved.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 28, 2026. The Legislature appropriated FY 2026-27 administration funding for the Department of Revenue, Parks and Wildlife, and the Department of Law. · Effective date: January 1, 2027

SB 26-137 Measures to Reduce Administrative Burdens

Sponsors: James Coleman, Cleave Simpson, Jarvis Caldwell

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME: SIGNED**

What it does: Requires each principal state department to review all of its rules at least every five years and to determine whether redundant rules can be eliminated, whether a rule is outdated, whether funding is appropriate, and whether the rule can be made more effective. Lets the reviewing committee recommend a sunset review or audit, and clarifies the attorney general's litigation discovery role.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported win. Periodic rule review and redundancy elimination ease the regulatory and permitting environment that engineering firms navigate on projects.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 14, 2026. Senate Finance amendments removed an explicit business-burden weighting provision while preserving review for necessity, efficiency, relevance, and cost. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

Other Bills ACEC of Colorado Opposed

Additional measures the association worked to defeat or amend.

HB 26-1121 Public Accessibility of Emissions Records

Sponsors: Lorena García, Bob Marshall, Lisa Cutter

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: OPPOSE **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Beginning January 1, 2028, would have required any owner or operator of a building, facility, or installation that emits or may emit an air pollutant to post all state and federally required emissions records publicly on its website and to update them on the same schedule provided to regulators.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A defeat ACEC of Colorado secured, having opposed similar legislation the prior year. The public-posting mandate raised compliance and disclosure exposure for regulated facilities and the firms that design and operate them.
Status: Introduced February 4, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the House Energy and Environment Committee on February 26, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1221 Tax Expenditure Adjustments

Sponsors: Emily Sirota, Yara Zokaie, Judy Amabile

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: OPPOSE **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have limited the alternative minimum tax credit, required corporations to add back the federal IRC 162(m) executive compensation deduction for state tax purposes beginning in 2027, and shortened the net operating loss carryforward from 20 years to 10 while capping the deduction at 70%. A new refundable family tax credit would have used the revenue.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A defeat ACEC of Colorado secured. The net operating loss tightening and executive compensation addback would have increased state income tax exposure for larger corporate engineering firms beginning in tax year 2027.
Status: Reengrossed May 4, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the Senate Finance Committee on May 11, 2026, withdrawn by its sponsors alongside HB 26-1222 amid the same business-community pressure. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1415 Optional Residential Construction Contractor Certification

Sponsors: Naquetta Ricks

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: OPPOSE **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have created a residential construction contractor certification enterprise in the Department of Law, funded by an annual certification fee capped at $100, to certify contractors and reduce abandoned-work and contract-compliance harms to homeowners.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A defeat ACEC of Colorado secured. ACEC of Colorado initially weighed an amend position to exclude professionals licensed under the DORA AES Board, then moved to oppose as a coalition formed to kill the bill.
Status: Introduced April 9, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee on May 6, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

Other Bills ACEC of Colorado Supported

Measures the association backed as beneficial to the profession.

HB 26-1051 Continue Microgrid Community Resilience Grant Program

Sponsors: Katie Stewart, Larry Suckla, Dylan Roberts

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Continues the microgrids for community resilience grant program indefinitely by removing its September 1, 2026 repeal date. The program funds cooperative electric associations and municipally owned utilities to purchase microgrid resources for eligible rural communities.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported priority. Continuing microgrid grants sustains electrical, energy, and resilience engineering work in rural Colorado.
Status: Final Act May 27, 2026; sent to the Governor May 28, 2026. The Energy Committee recommended support. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1145 Mobile Home Park Water Quality

Sponsors: Jacque Phillips, Elizabeth Velasco, Lisa Cutter

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Strengthens the water quality control division's authority over its mobile home park water testing and remediation program, authorizing remediation of welfare-related water quality violations and orders requiring resident notice certification, additional testing, temporary measures, and remediation plans.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported win. Expanded remediation authority creates work for environmental, civil, and water-quality engineers serving mobile home park water systems.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 5, 2026. The Water and Environment Committee moved the position to support; one House amendment defined risk to welfare. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1334 Modify Standards of Wildfire Resiliency Code Board

Sponsors: Ava Flanell, Amy Paschal

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have required the wildfire resiliency code board to conduct an initial review of its codes and standards by July 1, 2026 and at least every three years after, added a petition process for impacted persons, and extended the local adoption deadline to April 1, 2027.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported loss. The bill would have created a clearer, more predictable code-review process for the structural, civil, and building-systems engineering that wildfire resiliency standards govern.
Status: Introduced March 16, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the House Transportation, Housing and Local Government Committee on April 7, 2026, after the Board approved a support position March 22. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1337 Facilitating Nuclear Energy Development

Sponsors: Alex Valdez, Ty Winter

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have made the Colorado Energy Office the state's nuclear permitting coordinator, required large investor-owned utilities to solicit host communities and identify sites by August 1, 2027, and allowed the Public Utilities Commission to approve up to $20 million in expedited cost recovery for development studies.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported loss. A nuclear permitting framework would have opened a substantial new field for nuclear, civil, structural, and electrical engineering. The Board voted to support after an Energy Committee split.
Status: Adopted committee amendments April 30, 2026, then laid over unamended with failed amendments in the House Appropriations Committee on May 14, 2026, ending the bill. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

SB 26-022 Challenges Meeting 2030 Emissions Reduction Goals

Sponsors: Cleave Simpson, Marc Snyder, Jarvis Caldwell

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME: DIED**

What it does: Would have let cooperative electric associations and municipal utilities facing challenges meeting the 80% greenhouse gas reduction goal by 2030 file updated clean energy plans with a timeline as late as 2040, and extended the deadline to notify the state of compliance challenges from March 31 to May 31, 2026.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported loss. The added flexibility would have eased compliance pressure on smaller utilities and the engineering teams supporting their generation and transmission planning.
Status: Introduced January 14, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee on April 29, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

SB 26-045 Nuclear Workforce Development & Education Program

Sponsors: Larry Liston, Kyle Mullica, Amy Paschal

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME: DIED**

What it does: Would have created the Colorado nuclear workforce development and education council at the Colorado School of Mines and a grant program for institutions of higher education to develop or expand nuclear engineering degree and certificate programs, funded only by gifts, grants, and donations reaching a $500,000 threshold.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported loss. The bill targeted the nuclear engineering talent pipeline that Colorado firms would need if nuclear development advances.
Status: Reached the House Education preamended version May 8, 2026, then postponed indefinitely by the House Appropriations Committee on May 12, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

SB 26-089 Recreate Wildfire Matters Interim Committee

Sponsors: Mark Baisley, Lisa Cutter, Elizabeth Velasco

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME: DIED**

What it does: Would have recreated the wildfire matters review committee as a 10-member interim legislative committee to review state wildfire prevention and mitigation policy and recommend legislation, with original appointments due by June 1, 2026.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported loss. The interim committee would have been a venue to shape wildfire-resiliency engineering standards and mitigation policy.
Status: Reached the Senate Agriculture preamended version February 20, 2026, then laid over unamended with failed amendments in Senate Appropriations on May 14, 2026, a casualty of the budget-driven cancellation of interim committees. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

SB 26-142 Development of Thermal Energy Resources

Sponsors: Matt Ball, Cathy Kipp, Ryan Gonzalez

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME: SIGNED**

What it does: Permits qualifying industrial and commercial operators to sell recovered thermal energy as a by-product under defined conditions, authorizes local governments and special districts to contract for thermal energy network service and issue bonds for thermal infrastructure, and increases community geothermal garden capacity.

ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported priority. Thermal energy networks and recovered-heat projects open mechanical, geothermal, and energy-systems engineering opportunities.
Status: Final Act May 21, 2026; sent to the Governor May 22, 2026. The Board voted to an official support position April 1 after Energy Committee review. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

SB 26-172 Front Range Passenger Rail District

Sponsors: Nick Hinrichsen, Cathy Kipp, Andrew Boesenecker

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Changes the boundaries of the Front Range Passenger Rail District, requires directors appointed on or after July 1, 2026 to reside within the district, allows the board to create subdistricts, requires voter approval for subdistrict taxes or multiyear debt, and changes the cost distribution method for district elections.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported win. The district advances passenger rail planning, a long-horizon source of civil, structural, and transportation engineering work along the Front Range.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 27, 2026. Four technical amendments were adopted across the two chambers. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

SJR 26-001 Water Projects Eligibility Lists

Sponsors: Marc Catlin, Dylan Roberts, Karen McCormick

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: SUPPORT **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: A Senate Joint Resolution approving the water project revolving fund eligibility lists administered by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority, providing legislative approval for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater projects to access state revolving fund financing.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A supported win. The annual eligibility lists unlock financing for the water infrastructure projects that sustain water and environmental engineering demand.
Status: Governor signed March 13, 2026; Signed Act dated March 11, 2026. ACEC of Colorado supported. · Effective date: Upon adoption; resolution effective March 13, 2026

Monitored Legislation

Bills ACEC of Colorado tracked for awareness, listed in bill-number order.

HB 26-1001 Housing Developments on Qualifying Properties

Sponsors: Andrew Boesenecker, Javier Mabrey, Tony Exum

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Requires subject jurisdictions, on or after December 31, 2027, to allow residential development on qualifying properties of five acres or less owned by nonprofit housing providers, transit agencies, school districts, colleges, and housing authorities, through an administrative approval process.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Streamlined residential approvals on public and nonprofit land support site, civil, and building-systems engineering demand.
Status: Governor signed March 25, 2026. Amendments added local-government exemptions and made the law subject to citizen referendum. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1007 Improve Customer Use Distributed Energy Resources

Sponsors: Lesley Smith, Rebekah Stewart, Matt Ball

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Defines portable-scale solar generation devices, bars utilities from requiring approval before installation, and directs the Public Utilities Commission to revise interconnection rules for customer-owned meter collar adapters, with fire and building code compliance required.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Distributed energy and interconnection rules touch electrical and energy-systems engineering work.
Status: Governor signed May 7, 2026. Amendments added UL labeling and detailed adapter approval timelines. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1013 Ratio Utility Billing Systems

Sponsors: Javier Mabrey, Emily Sirota, Lisa Cutter

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Authorizes landlords to allocate utility charges to tenants through a ratio utility billing system meeting disclosure and billing requirements, and requires direct or submetered utility service for residential premises permitted on or after July 1, 2027.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Submetering requirements for new construction affect mechanical and plumbing design.
Status: Governor signed March 26, 2026. One Senate amendment added the July 1, 2027 metering requirement. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1030 Data Center & Utility Modernization

Sponsors: Monica Duran, Alex Valdez, Kyle Mullica

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have created a data center development authority and incentive program offering a 100% state sales and use tax exemption to certified data centers meeting investment, wage, utility coordination, and sustainability requirements.
ACEC of Colorado impact: The industry-backed incentive bill would have spurred large-load data-center construction and the engineering work behind it.
Status: Introduced January 14, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the House Energy and Environment Committee 11 to 2 on May 7, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1065 Transit and Housing Investment Zones

Sponsors: Julie McCluskie, Steven Woodrow, Tony Exum

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Creates the Transit Investment Area Act, letting local governments and transit agencies designate transit investment areas and capture state sales tax increment revenue to finance eligible improvements, with state tax credits for affordable housing in those zones.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Transit-oriented financing supports civil, transportation, and site engineering near stations.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 28, 2026. Amendments added geographic flexibility and reduced the annual tax credit cap. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1076 Transportation Statutory Clean-Up

Sponsors: Mandy Lindsay, Amy Paschal, Matt Ball

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Makes technical and clarifying changes to Department of Transportation statutes, including renaming the office of freight mobility and safety, clarifying lane-use rules on Interstate 70, and redirecting a tire-chain permitting fee from the highway users tax fund to the state highway fund.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A cleanup measure with limited direct engineering effect but relevant to transportation practice.
Status: Final Act May 27, 2026; signed by the President of the Senate May 29, 2026 and enrolled for the Governor. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1081 Optimize Colorado Electric Transmission System

Sponsors: Sean Camacho, Monica Duran, Dylan Roberts

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Defines advanced transmission technologies and requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules directing regulated utilities to consider them in 10-year transmission plans and to identify strategies to reduce new transmission costs, with a nonvoting commission seat added to the transmission authority board.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Transmission planning and advanced-technology evaluation drive electrical and grid engineering work.
Status: Final Act May 19, 2026; sent to the Governor May 20, 2026. Amendments added labor standards for qualifying construction. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1112 Regulation of Underground Injection Control Wells

Sponsors: Amy Paschal, Lesley Smith, Nick Hinrichsen

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have granted the Energy and Carbon Management Commission authority over Class I, IV, and V injection wells, allowed it to seek EPA primacy and assess fees, and granted the Mined Land Reclamation Board authority over Class III wells, with misdemeanor penalties for willful violations.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Injection-well regulation affects environmental and geotechnical engineering tied to subsurface disposal.
Status: Reengrossed May 11, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee on May 12, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1114 Allowed Minimum Lot Size for Subject Jurisdictions

Sponsors: Rebekah Stewart, Steven Woodrow, Matt Ball

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have barred subject jurisdictions, on or after October 1, 2031, from requiring lot areas larger than 2,000 square feet or imposing frontage, setback, open space, or coverage rules that effectively prevent a single-family home on a 2,000 square foot lot.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A density measure with modest direct effect on engineering practice.
Status: Reengrossed February 25, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the Senate Local Government and Housing Committee on April 23, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1129 Gas Utility Service

Sponsors: Carlos Barron, Ava Flanell, Barbara Kirkmeyer

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have required gas distribution utilities to exclude residential carbon dioxide emissions from clean heat plan baseline and projected calculations and allowed cost recovery for system safety and integrity projects.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Clean heat plan changes touch energy and mechanical engineering for gas systems.
Status: Introduced February 4, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the House Energy and Environment Committee on February 19, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1149 Legislative Committee Testimony Required Oath

Sponsors: Ty Winter, Byron Pelton

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have required a person testifying before a legislative committee to provide the testimony under oath.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A procedural measure with no direct engineering effect; monitored for the testimony process.
Status: Introduced February 4, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the House State, Civic, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee on February 19, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1187 Sunset Fire Suppression Programs

Sponsors: Kenny Nguyen, Rebekah Stewart, Tony Exum

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Continues the Division of Fire Prevention and Control fire suppression programs for 11 years to 2037 and replaces gender-specific terminology with gender-neutral language, implementing the 2025 DORA sunset recommendations.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Continuity of fire suppression programs supports fire-protection and life-safety engineering practice.
Status: Passed the Senate on Third Reading without amendments April 22, 2026 and was enrolled for the Governor. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1208 Sunset Compliance Advisory Panel Air Pollution

Sponsors: Elizabeth Velasco, Tony Exum, William Lindstedt

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Continues the Compliance Advisory Panel to the Air Pollution Control Division for 10 years, until September 1, 2036, with a legislative sunset review before repeal.
ACEC of Colorado impact: The panel provides air-quality compliance guidance relevant to environmental engineering on regulated projects.
Status: Governor signed May 4, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1226 Manage Emissions from Electric Generating Units

Sponsors: Meg Froelich, Jenny Willford, Lisa Cutter

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** AWAITING

What it does: Directs the air quality control commission to adopt rules by December 31, 2029 setting nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide limits for large covered electric generating units, with compliance and pollution controls required on a phased timeline and quarterly emission reporting.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Pollution-control mandates for generating units create environmental, mechanical, and civil engineering work.
Status: Rerevised May 5, 2026; the House concurred and repassed May 7, 2026. Amendments added longer timelines, exemptions, and cost recovery. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1237 Transportation Safety Modifications

Sponsors: Lesley Smith, Rick Taggart, William Lindstedt

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Makes numerous transportation and traffic statutory changes, clarifying traction-device rules, bike-lane parking prohibitions, vehicle-removal authority, and redefining crash and incident terminology in place of accident.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Relevant to civil, transportation, safety, and forensic engineers in roadway design and analysis.
Status: Governor signed May 5, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1246 Consumer-Regulated Electric Utilities

Sponsors: Ken DeGraaf

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have created consumer-regulated electric utilities, systems built solely to serve new nonresidential loads such as industrial sites and data centers, exempt from Public Utilities Commission regulation unless interconnected with the public grid.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A new utility class would have affected energy generation, transmission, and distribution engineering.
Status: Introduced February 18, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the House Energy and Environment Committee on April 30, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1268 Renewable Energy Development on Disturbed Lands

Sponsors: Karen McCormick, Lesley Smith, William Lindstedt

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Authorizes local governments to designate renewable energy reinvestment areas for siting renewable energy and storage projects on disturbed lands through an objective administrative approval process, with tax increment financing available for related public infrastructure.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Renewable siting on disturbed lands drives environmental, civil, geotechnical, electrical, and structural engineering demand.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 28, 2026. Amendments aligned definitions and added tribal-consultation language. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1269 Transit Access

Sponsors: Junie Joseph, Naquetta Ricks, Adrienne Benavidez

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Requires covered transit agencies to expand access through low-income fare discounts, partner pass programs, language access, restroom amenities, and reporting, with large agencies offering fare discounts beginning June 30, 2027.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Transit access mandates engage civil and transportation engineers in route, station, and stop design.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 28, 2026. Amendments trimmed reporting and tightened definitions. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1284 Requirements for Tenant Utility Billing

Sponsors: Amy Paschal, Jacque Phillips

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have set landlord and association tenant utility billing requirements and required individual water submeters in all new residential construction beginning January 1, 2027.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Submetering mandates would have engaged civil, mechanical, and plumbing engineers in residential design.
Status: Introduced February 20, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the House Transportation, Housing and Local Government Committee on March 18, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1289 Modification of Certain Tax Expenditures

Sponsors: Kyle Brown, Lorena García, Mike Weissman

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Adjusts several tax expenditures, including exempting construction and building materials used for public passenger rail, taxing certain opportunity-fund gains beginning in 2027, creating a senior tax credit, and allowing water's-edge filing elections.
ACEC of Colorado impact: The passenger-rail materials exemption is favorable to rail-related construction and engineering.
Status: Final Act May 29, 2026; sent to the Governor May 29, 2026. · Effective date: January 1, 2027

HB 26-1308 Lot Splitting Approval by Subject Jurisdictions

Sponsors: Andrew Boesenecker, Steven Woodrow, Judy Amabile

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have required subject jurisdictions, on or after December 31, 2027, to administratively approve lot splits meeting area, access, utility easement, and survey conditions, including assessment of water, sewer, drainage, and utility adequacy.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Administrative lot splitting would have engaged land survey, civil, and utility engineering review.
Status: Reengrossed March 24, 2026; passed House Second Reading with amendments March 23, 2026 and did not advance further before sine die. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1311 Retainage Surety Bond Construction Contracts

Sponsors: Michael Carter, Monica Duran, Scott Bright

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Authorizes a contractor on a private construction contract of at least $150,000 to submit a retainage surety bond in lieu of withheld retainage, which the owner must accept, and allows subcontractors to require like bonds.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Directly relevant to construction contracting and the engineering firms working under those contracts; one amendment exempted publicly owned property.
Status: Governor signed May 7, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1318 Traffic Safety Near Schools

Sponsors: Meg Froelich, Kenny Nguyen, Lisa Cutter

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Defines school zones as roadways within at least 1,000 feet of a school boundary, allows local governments to resize zones within a 200 to 1,000 foot band after a public hearing, limits automated vehicle identification requirements, and authorizes school streets with a 10 mile per hour limit.
ACEC of Colorado impact: School-zone design and traffic-control changes engage transportation and traffic engineers. ACEC of Colorado considered an amend position to add a traffic engineering study as an alternative to the public-meeting option.
Status: Final Act May 21, 2026; sent to the Governor May 22, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1323 Wildfire Resiliency Prohibiting Taking of Beavers

Sponsors: Mandy Lindsay, Elizabeth Velasco, Lisa Cutter

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have prohibited taking beavers on public land for recreation or commerce, with parks and wildlife rulemaking to protect the role of beavers in wildfire resiliency.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Minimal direct engineering effect; monitored for the wildfire-resiliency framing.
Status: Introduced March 5, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the House Agriculture, Water and Natural Resources Committee on March 23, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1326 Sunset Public Utilities Commission

Sponsors: Monica Duran, Jenny Willford, Lisa Cutter

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Continues the Public Utilities Commission through the sunset process, modernizes communications and energy-statute provisions, allows utilities meeting the Clean Energy Plan to opt out of the older renewable energy standard, and adds ratepayer reporting.
ACEC of Colorado impact: PUC continuation and energy-statute changes shape the regulatory backdrop for energy engineering.
Status: Rerevised May 12, 2026; the House concurred and repassed May 13, 2026, and the bill was enrolled for the Governor. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1340 Revegetate or Dry Farm Formerly Irrigated Agricultural Land

Sponsors: Tisha Mauro, Ty Winter, Nick Hinrichsen

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Requires water right owners in water division 2 who change from agricultural irrigation to another use on or after January 1, 2027 to revegetate or convert to dryland farming with erosion control and weed management, subject to water-court-appointed third-party field reviews and a maintenance period.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Revegetation oversight engages environmental and water-resource engineering on water-right changes.
Status: Final Act May 27, 2026; sent to the Governor May 28, 2026. Amendments added deadlines and upfront financial assurances. · Effective date: January 1, 2027

HB 26-1360 Affordable Housing Financing Fund

Sponsors: Kyle Brown, Rick Taggart, Jeff Bridges

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Directs a $130 million transfer from the state affordable housing fund to the general fund on June 30, 2026 and makes corresponding adjustments to the affordable housing financing fund program priorities and administrative costs for FY 2026-27.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A Joint Budget Committee measure reducing housing-fund balances; limited direct engineering effect.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 29, 2026. · Effective date: July 1, 2026

HB 26-1362 Repeal Decarbonization Tax Credits Administration Fund

Sponsors: Emily Sirota, Rick Taggart, Jeff Bridges

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Repeals the decarbonization tax credits administration cash fund on July 1, 2027, contingent on HB 26-1405 becoming law, with conforming amendments.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A Joint Budget Committee fund repeal; limited direct engineering effect.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 29, 2026. · Effective date: July 1, 2027

HB 26-1391 Safe Drinking Water in Child Care Centers & Schools

Sponsors: Kyle Brown, Emily Sirota, Judy Amabile

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Extends the school and child care clean drinking water lead-testing program through June 30, 2029, adds high schools, and conditions child care licensing on compliance with lead-testing requirements.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Lead testing and remediation engage environmental and water-quality engineers in schools and centers.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 29, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1395 Repeal Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant Program

Sponsors: Emily Sirota, Rick Taggart, Judy Amabile

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Repeals the wildfire resilient homes grant program effective July 1, 2026 and transfers the grant program cash fund balance to the general fund.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A Joint Budget Committee repeal that ends a wildfire-mitigation grant source; limited direct engineering effect.

Status: Final Act May 26, 2026; sent to the Governor May 28, 2026. · Effective date: July 1, 2026

HB 26-1398 Retail Delivery Fee Revenue Allocation

Sponsors: Kyle Brown, Emily Sirota, Judy Amabile

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Beginning July 1, 2026, adjusts the multimodal share of retail delivery fee revenue to 70% for local and 30% for state multimodal projects.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A funding reallocation affecting multimodal transportation projects and related engineering.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 29, 2026. · Effective date: July 1, 2026

HB 26-1399 Eliminate General Fund Transfer to Multimodal Transportation Fund

Sponsors: Kyle Brown, Rick Taggart, Judy Amabile

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** AWAITING

What it does: Eliminates the annual $10.5 million general fund transfer to the multimodal transportation and mitigation options fund for July 1, 2026.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A Joint Budget Committee transfer reduction affecting multimodal project funding.
Status: Rerevised April 16, 2026; the first conference committee report was adopted and the bill repassed April 28, 2026. · Effective date: July 1, 2026

HB 26-1402 Transfer to Capital Construction Fund

Sponsors: Emily Sirota, Rick Taggart, Judy Amabile

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Directs July 1, 2026 transfers totaling roughly $140 million from the general fund and other sources to the capital construction fund and the information technology capital account, including funds for a Colorado State Patrol records upgrade.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Capital construction funding supports state building and infrastructure projects and the engineering behind them.
Status: Final Act May 26, 2026; sent to the Governor May 26, 2026. · Effective date: July 1, 2026

HB 26-1406 Repeal Capital Construction Funding Requirements

Sponsors: Emily Sirota, Rick Taggart, Judy Amabile

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Repeals the annual depreciation-lease equivalent payment requirement, transfers capitol complex renovation fund balances to the general fund, and repeals related funds and reporting.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A Joint Budget Committee measure affecting capital maintenance funding mechanics.
Status: Final Act May 29, 2026; sent to the Governor May 29, 2026. · Effective date: July 1, 2026

HB 26-1421 Fee Sharing with Nonlawyers in Legal Practice

Sponsors: Jarvis Caldwell, Javier Mabrey, Lindsey Daugherty

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** AWAITING

What it does: Prohibits attorney fee-sharing with nonlawyers and alternative business structures for legal services arising in Colorado, with carve-outs for debt collection, flat-fee arrangements, nonprofit legal services, litigation finance, and federal practice, subject to a 2029 sunset.
ACEC of Colorado impact: No direct engineering effect; monitored for professional-services and business-structure implications.
Status: Rerevised May 11, 2026; the House concurred and repassed May 12, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

SB 26-021 Clean Fleet Enterprise Replace Aging Diesel Trucks

Sponsors: Kyle Mullica, Cleave Simpson, Carlos Barron

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Authorizes the clean fleet enterprise to fund replacement of model-year 2009 or earlier diesel trucks with 2018 or newer diesel trucks through December 31, 2031 via grants, rebates, and loans, requiring surrender and decommissioning of the old truck.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A fleet-modernization program with limited direct engineering effect.
Status: Governor signed April 20, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

SB 26-028 Removal of Wind Energy from State Energy Goals

Sponsors: Rod Pelton

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have removed wind energy as an eligible renewable resource under the renewable energy standard and from the state's clean energy targets.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Would have reshaped renewable energy demand; monitored for grid and generation effects.
Status: Introduced January 14, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee on February 18, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

SB 26-033 Clean Energy Permitting Processes

Sponsors: Larry Liston, Ty Winter

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have created a clean energy permitting coordination office in the Colorado Energy Office to provide coordination and technical assistance for clean energy facility permitting.
ACEC of Colorado impact: A coordinated permitting office would have streamlined clean-energy project engineering and approvals.
Status: Introduced January 26, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on February 17, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

SB 26-052 Coal Transition Community Investment

Sponsors: Marc Catlin, Dylan Roberts, Meghan Lukens

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Establishes a hiring preference for qualified coal transition workers by covered businesses in coal transition communities and expands allowable investment of just transition settlement money.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Affects construction and energy-facility employers in transition communities; limited direct engineering effect.
Status: Governor signed March 9, 2026. Amendments defined coal transition workers and added employer exemptions. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

SB 26-082 Local Government Renewable Energy Development Fee

Sponsors: Byron Pelton

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have authorized local governments to offer a two-tier application fee program for renewable energy land use approvals, with an expedited track providing a 120-day decision guarantee and partial refunds for delay.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Permitting timelines and fees affect renewable-project engineering and development schedules.
Status: Senate Transportation and Energy preamended version April 30, 2026; laid over on Second Reading to May 14, 2026 and did not advance before sine die. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

SB 26-101 Local Government Landfill Methane Emission Reduction Regulations

Sponsors: Byron Pelton, Dylan Roberts, Meghan Lukens

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Allows the Department of Public Health and Environment to fund municipal solid waste landfill methane reduction projects, prioritizes local-government grant requests, and amends the disproportionately impacted community definition.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Landfill methane projects create environmental, civil, chemical, and mechanical engineering work in gas collection and beneficial use.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 21, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

SB 26-109 Building Code Accessibility

Sponsors: Lisa Cutter, Tony Exum, Junie Joseph

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Updates accessible-housing building code standards, clarifies that the standards serve persons with non-ambulatory and semi-ambulatory disabilities, permits alternative appeal processes, and requires covered developers to create implementation plans.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Accessibility code changes affect architectural and building-systems engineering design.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 6, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

SB 26-116 Property Tax Modifications

Sponsors: Mike Weissman, Yara Zokaie, James Coleman

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Makes multiple property tax changes, including municipal lodging tax authority on voter approval, lodging valuation methodology, and an adjusted business personal property exemption threshold, after amendments narrowed the bill.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Property tax and infrastructure-funding changes can shape demand for public-project engineering.
Status: Final Act May 20, 2026; sent to the Governor May 21, 2026. · Effective date: January 1, 2027

SB 26-150 Modernizing Regional Transportation District

Sponsors: Matt Ball, Iman Jodeh, Meg Froelich

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Reforms the Regional Transportation District, requiring a third-party comprehensive paratransit study by June 30, 2027, an accessible transportation service plan, and a restructured board of directors beginning in 2029.
ACEC of Colorado impact: RTD modernization shapes transit planning and the associated transportation engineering.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 28, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

SB 26-155 Increase Access Homeowner's Insurance Enterprise

Sponsors: Janice Marchman, Kyle Mullica, Kyle Brown

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** AWAITING

What it does: Creates the strengthen Colorado homes enterprise in the Division of Insurance to collect an annual fee from multiperil homeowner insurers and fund grants for resilient roof systems, with at least 90% of revenue dedicated to roof retrofits.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Home-hardening and resilient-roof grants engage structural and building-systems engineering on residential retrofits.
Status: Final Act May 20, 2026; sent to the Governor May 20, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

SB 26-182 Updated Clean Energy Plan Municipally Owned Utility

Sponsors: Cleave Simpson, Marc Snyder, Jarvis Caldwell

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Repeals deemed-approval provisions for cooperative and municipal utility clean energy plans and allows a municipally owned utility facing challenges to submit, by December 31, 2026, an updated plan achieving the 2030 emission reductions by no later than 2032. This bill was introduced as a compromise to SB26-021 that ACEC of Colorado supported.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Added flexibility for municipal utilities affects energy planning and engineering support.
Status: Governor signed; Signed Act dated May 21, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

SB 26-189 Automated Decision-Making Technology

Sponsors: James Coleman, Robert Rodriguez, Jennifer Bacon

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: MONITOR **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Repeals and reenacts Colorado's 2024 artificial intelligence consumer-protection law with new requirements for automated decision-making technology used in consequential

decisions, requiring developer documentation and deployer recordkeeping beginning January 1, 2027.
ACEC of Colorado impact: The reworked AI framework affects firms developing or deploying automated tools; limited direct engineering effect.
Status: Governor signed May 14, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

HB 26-1066 Tax Exemptions Low Income Rental Property Development

Sponsors: Rebekah Stewart, Katie Stewart, Matt Ball

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: NO POSITION **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have expanded the property tax exemption for low-income housing to include property intended for low-income residential rental.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Reviewed for affordable-housing development effects; determined not an ACEC of Colorado issue.
Status: Reached the House Finance preamended version February 27, 2026; laid over unamended with failed amendments in House Appropriations on May 14, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1086 Adjust Subdivision Access to State Highway System

Sponsors: Larry Suckla

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: NO POSITION **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have removed the requirement that all subdivision lots have access to the state highway system, allowing approval, on or after January 1, 2027, of subdivision plats without such access.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Reviewed for subdivision and access engineering effects; no position taken.
Status: Introduced February 2, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the House Transportation, Housing and Local Government Committee on February 17, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1124 Electrical Generation & Distribution Resiliency

Sponsors: Ken DeGraaf

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: NO POSITION **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have created an 18-member Colorado electric grid resiliency task force to conduct uniform engineering assessments of covered transformers, develop a statewide hardening and spare-transformer plan, and recommend funding mechanisms.
ACEC of Colorado impact: The task force would have engaged electrical and systems engineers in grid-resilience assessment; no position taken.
Status: Introduced February 4, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the House Energy and Environment Committee on March 5, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1278 Local Government Approval of Transmission Infrastructure

Sponsors: Chris Richardson, Rod Pelton, Marc Snyder

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: NO POSITION **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have required an investor-owned utility to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity and all local land use approvals before initiating condemnation for a high-voltage transmission project.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Reviewed for transmission siting and engineering effects; no position taken.
Status: Introduced February 19, 2026. Postponed indefinitely by the House Energy and Environment Committee on March 5, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

HB 26-1303 Technical Changes to Energy & Carbon Management Statutes

Sponsors: Brandi Bradley, Michael Carter, Matt Ball

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: NO POSITION **OUTCOME:** SIGNED

What it does: Changes the welder certification exam reference for oil and gas process lines to examinations applicable to welders and aligns operations terminology with the Energy and Carbon Management Commission's authority.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Technical certification changes touch energy-sector design and construction; reviewed without a position.
Status: Governor signed May 5, 2026. · Effective date: August 12, 2026

SB 26-049 Homeowner Natural Disaster Mitigation

Sponsors: Lisa Frizell, Marc Snyder, Sean Camacho

ACEC of Colorado POSITION: NO POSITION **OUTCOME:** DIED

What it does: Would have added individuals and homeowners' associations as eligible recipients of natural disaster mitigation enterprise funds, defined impact-resistant roofing and property-specific mitigation, and created a tax-advantaged catastrophe savings account.
ACEC of Colorado impact: Mitigation funding and resilient-roof provisions touch building-systems engineering; left on the watch list without a position.
Status: Reached the Senate Finance preamended version April 15, 2026; laid over unamended with failed amendments in Senate Appropriations on May 14, 2026. · Effective date: Not applicable; bill died

Section 3 · In the News

Selected coverage providing context on the session's defining storylines. Headlines link to the original reporting.

The Budget and the Shortfall

THE COLORADO SUN

Colorado's draft budget confronts a billion-dollar shortfall

The budget gap framed every spending decision this session and explains why so many bills carrying fiscal notes never reached the Governor.

COLORADO PUBLIC RADIO

The 2026 Colorado legislative session is over. Here is what passed and what died

A useful end-of-session ledger of winners and losers across the policy landscape ACEC of Colorado tracked.

Business Taxes

SUM & SUBSTANCE
Sponsors kill two bills to roll back $450 million in business tax breaks
The sponsors withdrew HB 26-1221 and HB 26-1222 in committee under business-community pressure, a coalition ACEC of Colorado was part of, removing the session's most significant tax threat to engineering firms.

THE COLORADO SUN
Colorado tax-policy bills fail under veto pressure
Although coverage framed the failures around the Governor's posture, the rollbacks were ultimately pulled by their own sponsors in committee under business-community pressure; HB 26-1223 survived to reach the Governor's desk.

Energy and Data Centers

COLORADO NEWSLINE
Data center bills rejected in legislative session
The defeat of SB 26-102 and HB 26-1030 leaves Colorado's data-center policy framework unresolved heading into 2027.

THE COLORADO SUN
Colorado weighs a nuclear power revival
HB 26-1337 drew strong industry interest but was ultimately laid over in House Appropriations. The appetite for nuclear is likely to resurface, keeping it a long-horizon opportunity for the engineering sector.

Transportation and Road Funding

THE COLORADO SUN
The road-funding fight: Initiative 175 and House Bill 1430
The clash between HB 26-1430 and the contractor-backed Initiative 175 defines the transportation debate ACEC of Colorado is watching closely.

COLORADO POLITICS
180,000 signatures submitted to put road-funding initiative on November ballot
With the initiative headed to voters, the road-funding question will carry into 2027 regardless of the Governor's action on HB 26-1430.

The Governor and the Road to 2027

COLORADO NEWSLINE

Polis issues first vetoes of the year

An early batch of vetoes signals an active executive posture on the bills still awaiting the Governor's decision.

THE COLORADO SUN

Polis defends Tina Peters sentence commutation

The post-session commutation sharpened tensions between the Governor and his party, coloring the lame-duck dynamic.

THE COLORADO SUN

The 101 bills that defined Colorado's 2026 legislative session

A comprehensive guide to the session's most consequential measures for readers who want the full landscape.

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