

Colorado Senior Lobby

Legislative Training

November 2017

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www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org



Overview

- Who/what is Colorado Senior Lobby (CSL)
- Role during Legislative Session
- Citizen Lobbyist
- How a Bill Becomes a Law
- How to Read a Bill & Fiscal Note
- How to Talk with your Legislator
- How to Testify (Mock Bill)
- Questions



Colorado Senior Lobby

- Colorado Senior Lobby is a non-profit, non-partisan, all volunteer organization, that speaks with a unified voice for all Coloradoans, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older.



Colorado Senior Lobby

We promote positive change on senior issues through:

- Advocacy and Education
- The Capitol Bunch Lobbyists
- Monitoring Legislative & Administrative Rule Development
- Testifying and Training
- Setting Non-Partisan Positions
- A Statewide Communication Network



Colorado Senior Lobby

Colorado Senior Lobby also organizes events for the community including ...

- Senior Day at the Capitol
- Colorado Senior Lobby Legislative Briefings
- Colorado Senior Lobby Annual Meeting



Colorado Senior Lobby

Most important are our Citizen Lobbyists ...

The Capitol Bunch
Lobbyists making
their presence known
at the Capitol



Colorado Senior Lobby

Testifying can be intimidating but it is an important part of our political system.

State and local
ombudsmen testify
along with
organizations,
professional
lobbyists and
citizens like you!



State and local ombudsmen
testifying on the PACE bill in 2017.

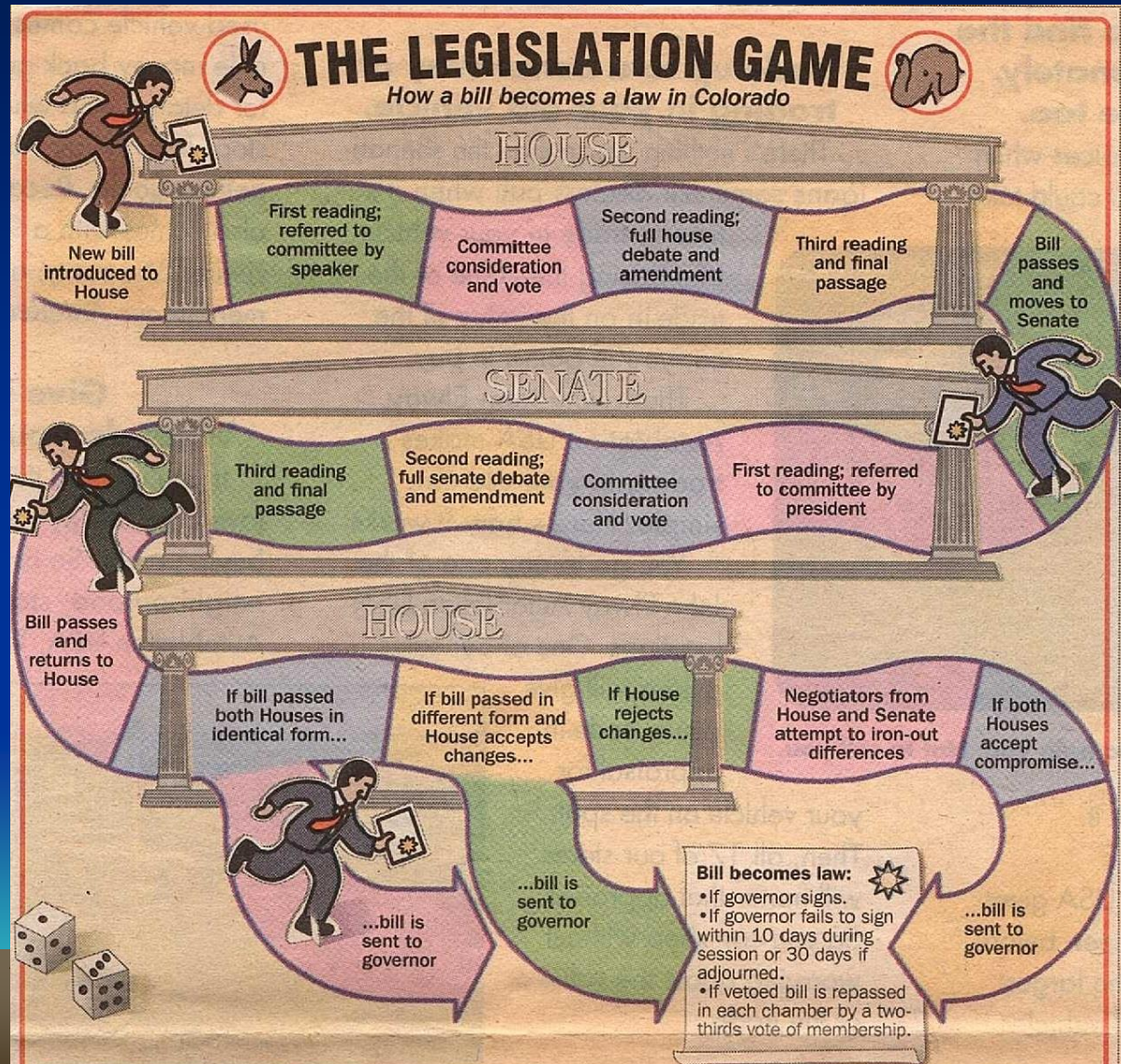
Colorado Senior Lobby

Most important are our Citizen Lobbyists ...

- Citizen Lobbyists reaching out to legislators - sometimes with cookies!



How a Bill Becomes a Law



Legislative Session

- Session 120 days January 10 – May 9
- Important dates
- House/Senate Leadership
- Committees
- OSPB
- JBC
- Legislative Legal Services
- Governor



CSL Role during Session

- Review Bills each Monday morning
- Vote on CSL Positions
- Who's assigned to follow the bill
- Testifying during committee hearing
- Contacting your legislator
- Writing letters/talking with other groups
- Citizen Lobbyist at Capital to make a presence



How to Read a Bill

- Bill number – House or Senate
- Sponsors
- Title
- Summary
- Sections
- Safety Clause
- Signature
- Strike out and Capitalizations



How to Read a Fiscal Note

- Bill Number & Title
- Overview of Cost
- Assumptions & Background
- Different Funding Sources
- State Agency Review



How to Talk with Your Legislator

- Phone Calls
- In-person
- Email
- Letters
- Testimony During Committee Hearings



Committee Hearing

- Sign-up to Testify (support/oppose)
- Make sure the sponsors know you will be testifying so they can assign the sequence
- Your Testimony – short/succinct and don't repeat – 3 minutes
- Wait to respond until Chairperson calls on you



Different Types of Committees



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Colorado General Assembly's website. The page title is "Committees | Colorado General Assembly". The URL in the address bar is "leg.colorado.gov/content/committees". The page features a navigation menu with links to "INTERIM SCHEDULE", "BILLS", "LAWS", "LEGISLATORS", "COMMITTEES", "INITIATIVES", "BUDGET", "AUDITS", "PUBLICATIONS", and "AGENCIES". The "COMMITTEES" link is highlighted. The main content area is titled "Committees" and includes a description: "Committees of reference, year-round committees, and interim committees consider legislation, provide oversight of executive branch agencies, and conduct studies on issues of importance to the state." A "View By Session" dropdown menu is set to "2017 Regular Session". Below this, the "House Committees of Reference" section lists various committees in two columns: Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources; Appropriations; Business Affairs and Labor; Education; Finance; Judiciary; Local Government; Public Health Care & Human Services; State, Veterans, and Military Affairs; and Transportation & Energy.

Committees | Colorado General Assembly

First Regular Session | 71st General Assembly

Colorado General Assembly

Visit & Learn | Find My Legislator | Watch & Listen

INTERIM SCHEDULE | BILLS | LAWS | LEGISLATORS | COMMITTEES | INITIATIVES | BUDGET | AUDITS | PUBLICATIONS | AGENCIES

Committees

Committees of reference, year-round committees, and interim committees consider legislation, provide oversight of executive branch agencies, and conduct studies on issues of importance to the state.

View By Session
2017 Regular Session

House Committees of Reference

House Committees of Reference meet primarily during the legislative session to consider legislation and provide oversight of executive branch agencies.

Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources	Judiciary
Appropriations	Local Government
Business Affairs and Labor	Public Health Care & Human Services
Education	State, Veterans, and Military Affairs
Finance	Transportation & Energy

<http://leg.colorado.gov/content/committees>

Citizen Lobbyist Resources

- We have posted this PowerPoint and other citizen lobbyist resources on our website.
- Go to the website and use the “Get Involved” tab to access:
Citizen Lobbyist Resources

www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org



Questions

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