

**METRO NORTH CHAMBER**  
**Business & Government Affairs (BGA) Committee**

Meeting Minutes – 2.28.18

The meeting was called to order by BGA Vice Chair Steve Caulk at 7:30 a.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, lobbyists Steve Balcerovich and Kathy Oatis asked the group to share bills they are following.

HB-1039, addressing a date change for special elections, was brought forward by Northglenn's Debbie Tuttle. The reply from the lobbyists was the measure "should pass with no problem."

HB-1086, permitting Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees to be conferred by community colleges, was raised. Feedback from the lobbyists and FRCC's Cathy Pellish was that the measure had passed the House and was in the Senate. The sentiment shared was that the bill would be passed.

SB-88 was discussed next, the "make good" bill (a measure tied to last year's pseudo Special Session) centered on pot tax monies going to all appropriate Special Districts. The lobbyists reported that the bill had been passed and signed by the Governor.

The Steve Lebsock expulsion hearing was then discussed. On tap tomorrow is a joint Chamber caucus with Rep. Lebsock slated to make remarks. The lobbyists said the harassment issues leveled at members of both parties have made for a "very difficult situation at the Capitol."

Guest legislator Senator Dominick Moreno then arrived. He began his remarks by saying there is a "cloud hanging over the legislature this year" with respect to the harassment issues. A member of the Joint Budget Committee (JBC), Moreno went on to say there are approximately \$8-900-million in "new" revenue for budget consideration this year.

The Governor, he said, wants 75% of those new dollars to go for transportation and 25% for education. The budget, Moreno said, is being worked on now by the JBC. The six-person body, three Republicans and three Democrats, are in the midst of figure setting, going through the budget department-by-department.

The budget document will "drop" in the House at the end of March; that Chamber will have a week to put forth amendments. The document, and House amendments, then go to the Senate for consideration in early April, then back to the JBC one week later with amendments from both Chambers. The budget, he said, will ultimately be delivered to the Governor by late April.

The big transportation divide, Moreno said, is whether the legislature can propose a solution on its own or ask voters to participate in the solution, or both. He looks for a combination effort; \$2-300-million to come from the general revenue fund "plus a measure for voters on the November ballot."

Questions asked of the Senator included why the state's PERA system is in such distress. Moreno said PERA will be addressed, requiring some difficult decisions that will likely involve additional dollars coming from both the general fund and PERA recipients.

## **Bill Review**

**HB-1250** – Analysis to Improve Compliance with Rules by Businesses – allowing first time regulation infractions to be mitigated for certain businesses.

A motion was made and seconded; the measure gains **SUPPORT**.

**SB-133** – Higher Education Certificate Performance Funding – sets the minimum amount of performance funding received for certificates vs. bachelor’s degrees. FRCC’s Cathy Pellish said the bill seeks to bring up the value of certificates to equal that of associate degrees, based on completion rates for certificate completion.

Motion was made, seconded; **SUPPORT**.

**SB-167** – Enforce “811” Requirements on Location of Underground Facilities – increases enforcement of requirements specific to underground utilities. There are different requirements for cities depending upon their Tier 1/Tier 2 status. It was reported that CML has an amendment pending.

**MONITOR**

Closing discussion: Jim Thibodeau, StaffScapes, mentioned two competing “529” bills re: college savings plans. One legislator has reportedly said that money invested in the funds could be constructed to facilitate student loan payback post-college. Those bills will be watched.

**The group agreed that the BGA wrap session for the year would be Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-9 a.m., in Room 147.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Submitted by Steve Arnold

MNCC Communications Manager