



## Business & Government Affairs (BGA) Committee Minutes January 31, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by BGA Chair Brad Harvey.

After the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Representative Dafna Michaelson-Jenet was introduced by lobbyist Steve Balcerovich as the morning's guest. She discussed the legislation she's working on this session, including:

- An interstate compact bill for psychologists that would facilitate internet therapy opportunities.
- An e-notary bill to help ease the time challenges of getting documents notarized.
- Work on a tele-justice bill, designed to utilize technology to reduce court wait times.
- A bill to help bolster uicide prevention, specifically youth suicide prevention.
- A cancer bill that would remove "step therapies" for Stage 4 victims, enabling more progressive treatments in a timely manner for the most seriously ill.

Bills reviewed:

- HB-1005 – concerns notice of post-secondary course enrollment options available to high school students. Front Range Community College expressed support for the bill. A motion was made and seconded; the committee voted to **SUPPORT** the bill.
- HB-1052 – centers on local education providers' receipt of concurrent enrollment courses from a two-year higher education institution outside of the institution's approved service area when the institution serving the region does not provide said concurrent courses. Front Range Community College expressed support for the bill. A motion was made and seconded; the committee vote was to **SUPPORT** the measure.
- HB-1071 – concerns the regulation of oil and gas operations in a manner consistent with the protection of public safety. The committee voted to **MONITOR** the measure.
- HB-1073 – authorizes water districts to enter into contracts regarding water-related assets. A motion was made and seconded; the committee voted to **SUPPORT** the measure.
- HB-1086 – Allows community colleges that are part of the state community college system to offer a bachelor of science degree in nursing. Front Range Community College strongly supports the measure. A motion was made and seconded; the committee voted to **SUPPORT** the bill.
- HB-1096 - concerns the eligibility of certain entities to apply for a special event permit to sell alcoholic beverages on-site. A motion was made and seconded; the committee voted to **SUPPORT** the measure.
- HB-1107 – centers on a requirement that builders of new residences offer buyers the option to install charging systems for electric vehicles during the construction process. Adams County expressed support for the measure. A motion was made and seconded; the committee voted to **SUPPORT** the bill.
- HB-1113 – examines state agency requirements for the enforcement of new regulatory requirements on small businesses with less than 100 employees. The committee voted to **MONITOR** this bill.

- HB-1119 – this is the second Republican-sponsored transportation bill put forth this session. Whereas SB-1 would utilize 10% of sales and use tax funds to back a \$3.5-billion transportation bond issue (assuming a favorable vote of the people), this measure proposes to use 7.5% of sales and use tax to generate \$1.88-billion to fund high priority federal aid transportation projects. The committee voted to **MONITOR** this measure.
- HB-1135 – calls for the extension of the advanced industries export acceleration program. A motion was made and seconded; the committee vote was to **SUPPORT** the bill.
- SB-7 – Centers on the Colorado affordable housing tax credit and its extension to the year 2024. A motion was made and seconded; the vote was to **SUPPORT** this bill.
- SB-9 – Concerns the right of electricity consumers to utilize/interconnect electricity storage systems (batteries) for use on their property. The committee voted to **MONITOR** this bill.
- SB-63 – Focuses on increased requirements for oil and gas operators, adding financial assurances and reclamation requirements to all projects. A motion was made and seconded; the committee voted to **OPPOSE** this bill.
- SB-64 – Updates the state’s renewable energy standard, requiring that all electric utilities derive 100% of their energy from renewable sources by the year 2035. The committee voted to **MONITOR** this measure.
- SB-67 – Speaks to the ability of certain organizations that conduct special events to auction alcohol beverages in sealed containers for fundraising purposes under certain, specified circumstances. A motion was made and seconded; the vote was to **SUPPORT** this bill.
- SB-69 – Addresses the enforcement of statewide degree transfer agreements, specifically from two-year colleges to four-year colleges. Front Range Community College expressed support for the measure. A motion was made and seconded; the committee voted to **SUPPORT** the bill.
- SB-88 – A bill that corrects the inaction of the legislature’s special session last fall, clarifying that retail marijuana sales are subject to sales taxes levied by certain limited purpose governmental entities, specifically RTD and SCFD’s, among others. A motion was made and seconded; the committee voted to **SUPPORT** this measure.

Chamber President Gregg Moss then introduced special guest Jerome Pischella from the Canadian Consulate in Denver, who spoke to the committee about ongoing NAFTA negotiations between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. He said the sixth round of negotiations were recently completed in Montreal with the goal of continuing the 25-year-old agreement.

Canada and Colorado, Pischella said, conduct \$4.1-billion in trade each year. Canada is the largest importer of U.S. goods. 140,000 U.S. jobs, he said, depend upon Canadian products. Canada and the U.S. conduct \$4.1-million in trade each minute of the day.

Pischella says he is cautiously optimistic that a new agreement will be reached. But should NAFTA fail, he says look for significant tariffs to quickly go into effect: 26% on beef and pork, 12% on soft drinks, and 6.2% on heavy industry products, all of which would have serious consequences on the American and Canadian economies.

After Mr. Pischella fielded a few questions from the committee, Chair Harvey adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Our next meeting - Wednesday, February 14, 7:30-9 a.m., Room 147 in the Chamber building.