

Legislative Update Report from Colorado Catholic Conference

May 15, 2026

The state's legislature adjourned *sine die* on Wednesday! The total bills introduced include: 433 House Bills and 193 Senate Bills this 2026 Legislative Session.

The last days of session saw some victories and defeats. ***Our stakeholder bill on child sex trafficking (SB26-15) passed and is awaiting Gov. Polis signature, and a bill to extend the amount of time a new mother in crisis can safely place her child in a Safe Haven baby box (30 days).***

However, several very bad legislation concerning the sanctity of life of preborn children, parental rights, and religious liberty also passed with minor amendments.

Bills without a safety clause or effective date will take effect 90 days after session.

The 2027 session will begin Monday, January 11, 2027.

There will likely be action by the Colorado Catholic Conference to address the decorum issues in HB25-1309 from committee and potential legal action against several bills that violate religious freedom of Coloradans.

Budget

The forecast for FY2027-28 shows Colorado in yet another revenue deficit of \$1 - 1.5 billion.

Our lawmakers must continue to make cuts until they get the structural deficit under control. *Too many programs have passed without a stable revenue stream.*

The Joint Budget Committee meets throughout the year. We will continue to listen to policy concerning the deficit.

Priority Bill results:

HB26-1309 Abuses in Cases of Separation

Awaiting Governor Signature

OPPOSE. HB26-1309 addresses good changes to domestic violence statutes in family court proceedings but includes bad policy concerning parental rights and sanctity of life. Under Sec. 2, c.2 (III) "Health-related abuse," HB-1309 states that "*interference with or controlling or preventing access to reproductive healthcare, including contraceptive use or reproductive health care information, or controlling or attempting to control reproductive outcomes*" is considered health related abuse.

This could include a father attempting to save the life of his preborn child when the mother is choosing abortion.

HB26-1309 also defines coercive control as “*a pattern of behavior that takes away the individual’s liberty or freedom and strips away the individual’s sense of self, including the individual’s bodily integrity and human rights,*” and applies this definition to a parent monitoring their child’s “*access to services.*” ***This means, a parent who does not affirm their child’s professed trans-identity could have parental custody rights removed.***

HB26-1309 did not have the public outcry needed to stop the bill – as we saw with HB25-1312 or SB26-18. During committee, Sen. Sullivan (sitting as chair) attacked the Catholic Church for its religious belief. We are pursuing action.

Here is a podcaster discussing the situation:

<https://x.com/FreeStateColor1/status/2052532925036458313?s=20>

We have an action alert asking for a VETO on HB26-1309:

<https://www.cocatholic.org/take-action/action-alerts>

HB26-1335 Abortion Medication Access on College Campuses

Awaiting Governor Signature

OPPOSE. HB26-1335 *will require colleges and universities to provide on-site abortion pill access through their student health center, pharmacy, or other campus location that provides access to any medication.*

We have an action alert asking for a VETO on HB26-1335:

<https://www.cocatholic.org/take-action/action-alerts>

HB26-1141 Discriminatory Practices in Public Schools

Awaiting Governor Signature

OPPOSE. HB26-1141 defines "*acts of discrimination based on disability, race, creed, sex, gender identity, and gender expression*" as unlawful and specifies "*grievance procedures*" for students and employees who are accused of committing "*acts of discrimination,*" including verbally profession their religious or sincerely held beliefs about human sexuality and marriage on public or private education K-12 or a higher education campus.

Furthermore, the bill underwent a re-write in House Appropriations, where it expanded language for all “education institutions,” including private schools, and added “pregnancy” and “parental status” to the protected classes under the harassment section. This means, organizations such as Students for Life and Turning Point USA are prohibited from speaking on abortion and human sexuality, if their positions oppose the state definition. **Pro-life organizations will also not be allowed to promote life-affirming alternatives to abortion on college campuses.** This is

important with the passage of HB26-1335, which will stockpile dangerous abortion drugs on college campuses and provide no alternatives to young women in crisis pregnancies. HB26-1141 also empowers the Colorado Civil Rights Commission to file charges against schools and individuals who violate this law.

We have an action alert asking for a VETO on HB26-1141:

<https://www.cocatholic.org/take-action/action-alerts>

HB26-1322 Civil Actions for Conversion Therapy Survivors

Awaiting Governor Signature

OPPOSE. HB26-1322 creates a private cause of action *against therapists who offer compassionate counseling and therapy for individuals, including minors, suffering from gender dysphoria.*

We have an action alert asking for a VETO on HB26-1322:

<https://www.cocatholic.org/take-action/action-alerts>

SB26-015 Commercial Sexually Activity with a Child Offenses

Awaiting Governor Signature

SUPPORT. SB26-015 updates state statute from child prostitution to a crime of "commercial sexually activity with a child," adds mandatory minimums of a level 3 or 4 felony depending on role played in trafficking process, and adds in "knowingly soliciting a child for sexual activity".

It also makes internet luring of a child for the purpose of sex trafficking the child a class 3 felony.