



**CONAHRO**  
**2026 Colorado General Assembly**  
**End of Session Report**

**Overview**

The second Regular Session of the 75<sup>th</sup> Colorado General Assembly opened on January 14<sup>th</sup> and concluded on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. As with last year, the session was largely dominated by the state budget crisis. Colorado faced a \$1.5 billion structural deficit. Largely driven by the rising cost of Medicaid healthcare programs. As indicated below, the legislature passed a \$46.8 billion budget for fiscal year 2026-2027. As with last year, most bills with a fiscal note (a cost to the state) were defeated.

As with the first Regular Session, the Democrats held majorities in the Senate (23–12) and in the House (43–22). While Democratic sponsored bills generally sailed through the legislature, as indicated below, there are several bills that Governor Polis (Democrat) is expected to veto.

**Key Issues at the State Legislature:**

**Budget:**

The state's \$46.8 billion fiscal year 2026-27 budget, contained in [HB 26-1410 Long Appropriations Bill](#), which was signed by the Governor in early May, [pares back programs and services](#) to address a roughly \$1.5 billion structural deficit. Medicaid took the brunt of the cuts to address a gap between how much money state lawmakers had to spend and how much it costs to continue current government offerings. The financial cost of this healthcare program for people with lower incomes and disabilities [is a leading cause](#) of imbalance. The biggest impacts were:

- Medicaid 2% across-the-board reduction in provider reimbursement rates and new enrollment caps on the Cover All Coloradans program

- Pay raises for state employees
- Lowers the state's reserve fund from 15% to 13%
- Tuition hikes at state colleges (up to 5% for community colleges and out-of-state students)

### **Legislative Referred Ballot Measure:**

The following legislation of note adopted by the General Assembly will be placed on the 2026 ballot as referred measures. In Colorado, due to a constitutional provision (TABOR – Taxpayers Bill of Rights), any desire to increase taxes must be approved by the voters. TABOR also provides for a refund to taxpayers if state revenue exceeds expenditures and [SB 26-135](#) asks taxpayers to give up any refund for an additional spending on K-12 education of 2% for ten years.

### **Financial/Business:**

While the legislature passed a bill ([HB 26-1005](#)) eliminating the need for a second vote to negotiate a union security agreement clause in the collective bargaining process, it is expected that the Governor will veto the bill.

[HB 26-1210](#) prohibits individualized price and wage setting, defined as using certain computational processes to set prices or wages based on surveillance data regarding a consumer or worker, respectively. There is a possibility that the Governor will veto the bill.

### **Regulatory Review:**

[SB 26-137](#), sponsored by bi-partisan leadership in both chambers and a priority for the CO Chamber of Commerce and business community, was adopted to streamline the processes under the State Administrative Procedure Act by adding requirements for rule reviews.

[HB 26-1054](#) bill attempted to create a “State OSHA” in the event standards under the federal Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act were repealed and would have provided additional authority to the Department of Law. This bill was defeated on the Senate floor.

### **AI/Technology:**

Colorado passed the nation’s first broad AI regulation in 2024 ([SB 24-205](#)), the “Colorado AI Act”. In 2026, lawmakers substantially rewrote it after pushback from tech companies and business groups. It replaced the broader and more controversial “Colorado AI Act” framework with a narrower system focused on AI-assisted decisions that materially affect people’s lives, including consumer notifications with AI making consequential decisions.

## **Bills of Interest to CONAHRO:**

[Click here for the CONAHRO Bill Tracking 2026 Link](#)

### **Priority CONAHRO Legislative Issues:**

CONAHRO actively tracked 32 bills this Legislative Session. Protecting affordable housing funding as much as possible and running proactive legislation, HB26-1206, to increase funding options for public housing authorities were top priorities.

The State Constitution requires the legislature to pass a balanced budget. With the budget deficit, the Affordable Housing Fund did have some funding cuts. CONAHRO worked with housing partners to minimize cuts and to spread cuts over a three-year period.

### **HB26-1206** - Improved Funding to Support Development

Sponsors: Representatives Junie Joseph & Ryan Gonzalez and Senators William Lindstedt & Adrienne Benevidez

CONAHRO Position - Support

The bill would have allowed cities and counties to enter into agreements with housing authorities to impose a sales and use tax on the existing tax base with voter approval, and dedicate the revenue to the housing authority. The bill also allows county housing authorities to issue bonds.

CONAHRO led the support effort on this legislation (Big “Thank you” to Peter Lifari). The bill ultimately failed on the last day of the legislative session.

### **HB26-1001** - Housing Developments on Qualifying Properties (HOME Act)

Sponsors: Representatives Andy Boesenecker & Javier Mabrey and Senator Tony Exum

CONAHRO Position - Support

The bill requires local governments to allow residential development on qualifying properties owned by certain non-profit organizations, school districts, state colleges or universities, housing authorities, or a transit district or transportation authority. Qualifying properties include non-profit organizations, school districts, housing authority transit district and other.

### **HB26-1313** - Adjust Requirements Statewide Affordable Housing Fund

Sponsors: Representatives Andy Boesenecker & Rebekah Stewart and Senator Matt Ball

CONAHRO Position - Support

The bill revises the methodology used by the Division of Housing to determine eligibility to receive assistance from the Prop 123-supported Affordable Housing Fund. Under existing Colorado law, local and tribal governments are required to increase affordable housing units by 3% annually over a three-year cycle. HB26-1313 updates the system to better reflect local

economic realities by shifting away from a flat statewide requirement and creating more localized targets tied to development patterns and job growth data. As a result, more jurisdictions should be able to retain eligibility.

**Non-Priority CONAHRO Legislative Issues:**

[HB-1196](#) – Concerning Tenant Data Information

Requires redaction of certain Personal Identifying Information in Eviction Filings and requires notification to prospective tenants of data (screening tools) a landlord will attempt to access during tenant screening.

[HB-1045](#) = Concerning Housing Protections for Individuals with Disabilities

Codifies in state law current federal protections for assistance animals as reasonable accommodations.

**Legislative Committees Meeting During the 2026 Interim**

For the 2026 interim, the following committees will continue to meet:

- Black Coloradan Racial Equity Study Commission
- Capital Development Committee
- Capitol Building Advisory Committee
- Colorado Commission on Uniform State Laws
- Colorado Youth Advisory Council Committee
- Committee on Legal Services
- Executive Committee of the Legislative Council
- Joint Budget Committee
- Joint Technology Committee
- Legislative Audit Committee
- Legislative Council
- Statutory Revision Committee

The Commission on Medicaid, established through [Senate Bill 26-187](#), will also meet during the 2026 interim.

**Media: End of Session Coverage**

- The Colorado Sun, May 14, 2026 "[101 bills that passed and failed in Colorado's legislature this year that you need to know about](#)"
- The Sum & Substance, May 14, 2026 "[2026 Colorado legislative analysis: A year in which business concerns were heard](#)"

- Colorado Newslines, May 14, 2026 “[Colorado General Assembly adjourns 120-day legislative session](#)”