

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Legislative Process and Administration		
<p>HB 10-1020 (Enacted) <i>Legislative Department Contracts</i></p>	<p>HB 10-1080 (Enacted) <i>Duties of the Legislative Emergency Response Committee</i></p>	<p>HB 10-1178 (Enacted) <i>Transparency in the Use of Gifts, Grants, and Donations</i></p>
<p>HB 10-1354 (Postponed Indefinitely) <i>Approval of Legislative Interim Studies</i></p>	<p>HCR 10-1004 (Adopted) <i>Temporary Move of Seat of Government in Emergency</i></p>	<p>SB 10-009 (Enacted) <i>Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force Duties</i></p>
<p>SB 10-213 (Enacted) <i>Legislative Interim Committees</i></p>	<p>SCR 10-009 (Postponed Indefinitely) <i>Decrease Maximum Length of Regular Legislative Session</i></p>	
Redistricting Process		
<p>HB 10-1210 (Enacted) <i>Redistricting Process</i></p>	<p>HB 10-1408 (Enacted) <i>Statutory Directions Concerning Congressional Districts</i></p>	
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<p>HB 10-1092 (Postponed Indefinitely) <i>Lobbyist Identification Cards to Enter State Capitol Building</i></p>	<p>SB 10-087 (Enacted) <i>Regulation of Lobbyists by the Secretary of State</i></p>	
Legislator Compensation		
<p>SB 10-099 (Enacted) <i>Member Travel Reimbursement from Joint Governmental Agency</i></p>	<p>SB 10-119 (Enacted) <i>Member Per-diem Expense Allowance</i></p>	
Capitol Dome Restoration		
<p>HB 10-1402 (Enacted) <i>Fund-raising for Capitol Dome Restoration</i></p>	<p>SB 10-192 (Enacted) <i>Limited Gaming Revenues for Capitol Building Restoration Work</i></p>	

The General Assembly discussed a number of topics relating to the operation of the legislative branch of state government during the 2010 legislative session. These topics included: the administration of the legislative process; operation of the General Assembly during emergencies; the redistricting process for state legislative and congressional districts following the 2010 census; the regulation of lobbyists; expense reimbursement for members of the General Assembly; and funding for repairs to the State Capitol Building's dome.

Legislative Process and Administration

House Bill 10-1020 changes the approval process for certain legislative contracts, making them subject to the approval of the Office of Legislative Legal Services instead of the State Controller and the Attorney General. The bill does not change the current approval process for contracts relating to the leasing of real and personal property.

Senate Bill 10-213 prohibits the Legislative Council from creating or authorizing any studies during the 2010 interim. It also suspends the activities of the following existing statutory committees during the 2010 interim:

- Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force;
- Legislative Emergency Epidemic Response Committee;
- Legislative Oversight Committee for the Continuing Examination of the Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness who are Involved in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems;
- Mentally Ill Offender Task Force;
- Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission;
- Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension Reform Commission;
- Water Resources Review Committee; and
- Transportation Legislation Review Committee.

Finally, the bill suspends or postpones the reporting requirements for these committees and task forces to conform with the suspension of their activities.

House Bill 10-1354, which was postponed indefinitely, would have repealed all existing legislative interim study committees and instead required these studies to be conducted by joint committees of reference. Under the bill, a legislator who wished to have a topic studied during the interim was required to introduce a joint resolution identifying the issues to be studied and the joint committee that would conduct the study. All such resolutions would then be referred to the Legislative Council which the bill authorized to take action on such resolutions and on any other legislation allocating legislative staff resources. If the council approved the study, it would have been required to fix the number of days that the interim committee could meet limited to a maximum of 25 meeting days per year for all interim committees. The bill exempted certain statutory legislative committees from the repeal, and clarified that legislative staff was to provide staff support for all future interim studies. The bill required that in-kind donations of services from private organizations be in addition to, and not in lieu of, the services normally provided by legislative staff. Finally, the bill specified the appropriate committees of reference for reports that, under current law, are submitted to statutory interim committees.

Colorado law requires the Legislative Emergency Epidemic Response Committee to develop an emergency response plan for use by the legislative branch during an epidemic emergency. **House Bill 10-1080** expands the scope of the committee to include disaster preparation. The bill also authorizes the committee to recommend legislation relating to preparedness, response, and recovery by the General Assembly, and continuation of the operations of the General Assembly in the event of an emergency epidemic or disaster. Finally, the bill changes the name of the committee to the Legislative Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Committee.

House Concurrent Resolution 10-1004 submits a ballot measure to amend the state constitution to the voters at the 2010 general election. The amendment allows for the seat of state government to move temporarily in certain disaster emergency situations. In the event or imminent threat of a disaster, the Governor may issue an executive order declaring a disaster emergency and designate a temporary meeting location for the General Assembly. Upon convening at this location, the General Assembly may then designate a temporary location for all branches of the state government to relocate to for a specified period of time. The concurrent resolution is effective upon voter approval at the 2010 general election.

The state constitution currently limits regular sessions of the General Assembly to 120 calendar days. **Senate Concurrent Resolution 10-009**, which was postponed indefinitely, would have submitted a constitutional amendment to voters to prohibit the legislature from meeting in regular session for more than 100 calendar days within that 120-day period.

Senate Bill 10-009, recommended by the Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force, adds developing a model for ongoing assessment of progress towards reducing poverty and increasing economic opportunity in Colorado to the task force's duties. A subcommittee of the task force is responsible for creating the model. Once developed, the task force is required to recommend this model to the General Assembly for adoption in measuring the effectiveness of certain public programs and policies in meeting the poverty reduction goals of the task force.

Beginning November 1, 2011, **House Bill 10-1178** directs state agencies, other than institutions of higher education, that receive gifts, grants, and donations to annually report these donations to the General Assembly along with the source and use of the donations. For donations exceeding \$50 the agency is required to request a letter from the donor specifying the amount of the donation, its duration, purpose, and the related bill number, if applicable. Beginning January 1, 2011, the Legislative Council staff is required to keep a record of all bills that rely on these funding sources and annually report if programs created by the bills have received sufficient funding. Beginning in January 2013, the General Assembly may introduce legislation to repeal any bill that has not received sufficient funding from gifts, grants, and donations within two years of becoming law. The bill also clarifies that appropriations will not be made to fund these bills unless specifically authorized by new legislation.

Redistricting Process

House Bill 10-1210 implements the redistricting process for state legislative and congressional districts following the 2010 census. The bill outlines the duties and responsibilities of the Colorado Reapportionment Commission, the Office of Legislative Legal Services (OLLS) and the Legislative Council Staff (LCS) in the redistricting process. House Bill 10-1210 requires the appointment of a staff director to the commission by the directors of LCS and OLLS. The Director of LCS is required to obtain data and computer systems necessary to conduct redistricting. The bill urges the Colorado Supreme Court to approve the plan no later than 55 days before precinct caucuses or by December 14, 2011, to permit county clerks to prepare for the presidential primary process in February 2012.

House Bill 10-1408 changes statutory directions that are given to the Colorado Supreme Court to be used when determining the lawfulness of congressional district boundaries. Current law prioritizes various criteria to be used by the court in making this determination. These criteria include, in the following order: population equality between districts; compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act; avoidance of fragmentation of political subdivisions such as counties, cities, and towns, across district lines; preservation of communities of interest including ethnic, cultural, economic, trade area, geographic and demographic factors; district compactness; and disruption of prior district lines. The bill removes this prioritization, as well as a restriction on the court from using "non-neutral" factors such as political party registration and electoral outcomes when evaluating congressional districts.

Regulation of Lobbyists

Senate Bill 10-087 changes the regulation of lobbyists by the Secretary of State. Specifically, the bill does the following:

- allows the Secretary of State to set the registration fee paid by professional lobbyists in rule to cover the costs of registering volunteer lobbyists;
- increases the late fine for filing lobbyist disclosure statements from \$10 to \$20 per day for the first ten business days, and \$50 per day after the tenth business day;
- allows the Secretary of State to excuse or reduce the payment of penalties for late filings for personal emergencies;
- shifts lobbyist registration and disclosure periods to the state fiscal year rather than the calendar year as under current law;
- specifies procedures to be taken if the General Assembly or Secretary of State revokes a person's lobbying privileges or registration; and
- outlines prohibited conduct by lobbyists and specifies the process for filing complaints and enforcement by the Secretary of State and General Assembly.

House Bill 10-1092, which was postponed indefinitely, would have allowed lobbyists to apply for an identification (ID) card to access the State Capitol Building and bypass the Capitol security checkpoints. To obtain an ID, lobbyists would have submitted to a criminal background check and paid fees and surcharges to cover the cost of processing applications and issuing cards. Lobbyists would have been assessed a surcharge of \$100 for first-time applications and \$50 for annual renewals. The Executive Committee of the Legislative Council was empowered to increase the surcharge up to a maximum of \$300.

Criminal background checks would have been conducted every three years in connection with the renewal of a lobbyist ID card. Under the bill, an ID card could have been cancelled or a renewal application denied upon notification to the legislature of an unsatisfactory criminal background check, a violation of the rules, unauthorized use of a card, or criminal activity of the lobbyist in the State Capitol Building.

Legislator Compensation

The Colorado Constitution prohibits members of the General Assembly from accepting gifts or other things of value from certain persons without reimbursement of the person. An exception is provided for reasonable expenses paid by certain nonprofit organizations or state or local governments for attendance at meetings where the member is scheduled to participate. Under current law, the Council of State Governments, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Energy Council, and the American Legislative Exchange Council are recognized as joint governmental agencies to which the General Assembly or its members may subscribe and for which membership fees or certain meeting expenses may be paid from legislative appropriations. **Senate Bill 10-099** authorizes a member to accept reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses for travel, board, and lodging from these agencies if the:

- expenses are related to the member's attendance at a convention or meeting of the joint governmental agency at which the member is scheduled to deliver a speech, make a

presentation, participate on a panel, or represent the state of Colorado or for some other legitimate state purpose;

- travel, board, and lodging arrangements are appropriate for purposes of the member's attendance at the convention or meeting;
- duration of the member's stay is no longer than is reasonably necessary for the member to accomplish the purpose of attendance at the convention or meeting;
- member is not currently and will not subsequent to the convention or meeting be in a position to take any official action that will benefit the joint governmental agency; and
- attendance at a convention or meeting of the joint governmental agency has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council or by the leadership of the chamber of the General Assembly to which the member belongs.

Alternatively, members are authorized to accept reimbursement if the General Assembly pays regular dues to the joint governmental agency that are invoiced expressly to cover travel, board, and lodging expenses for the attendance of members at conventions or meetings of the joint governmental agency. Finally, the bill requires disclosure of reimbursement for these expenses by a joint governmental agency.

Senate Bill 10-119 delays for two years a scheduled increase in the per diem expense allowance for legislators who live outside of the Denver metropolitan region. The bill also allows the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council to establish guidelines regarding reimbursement of legislative travel expenses.

Capitol Dome Restoration

House Bill 10-1402 authorizes the General Assembly's Capital Development Committee (CDC) to approve and oversee a two-year fund-raising effort to repair the State Capitol Building dome. The CDC will also oversee any agreements made with a nonprofit historic preservation organization or marketing firm conducting the fund-raising effort. Any moneys received will be credited to the Capitol Dome Restoration Trust Fund. The use of any restoration funds must be approved in a capital construction project request and appropriated by the General Assembly. The Capitol Building Advisory Committee will review, advise and make recommendations to the CDC regarding fund-raising efforts and the permissible use of signs indicating the donations of major sponsors of the restoration project. The fund-raising program will conclude on July 1, 2012. The CDC will provide periodic reports to the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council regarding fund-raising for the project.

Senate Bill 10-192 transfers \$4 million from the State Historical Fund for FY 2010-11 to the Capitol Dome Restoration Fund for repairs and safety improvements to the dome and its supporting structures. For FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13, the bill transfers *up to* \$4 million to the fund. The amount actually transferred will be \$4 million less any donations and grants received for repairs and safety improvements, not including funds for emergency expenditures deemed necessary by the State Architect or fees and expenses of a fund-raising firm. The bill requires the Colorado Historical Society to submit an annual report to the CDC concerning grants awarded from the State Historical Fund. The bill also requires the State Architect to periodically report to the CDC concerning the progress of repairs and safety improvements.