



"Serving the Chief Fire Officers of Colorado since 1968"

Legislative Report

March 23, 2008

"A people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."
 – former President James Madison (1822)

The Week Ahead in the Colorado Legislature

Monday, March 24, 2008

HB08-1249 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Service Charges; Senate 2nd Reading

HB-1360 Fire Arson Investigators as Peace Officers; House 2nd Reading

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

Joint House & Senate Agriculture Committees – Presentation on State Wildland Fire Preparedness; 7:30 AM

Friday, March 7, 2008

SB-051 Oil & Public Safety Enforcement Authority; Senate Appropriations Committee; Upon Adjournment

Note: This schedule is subject to change

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Bill to Provide Health Insurance to Volunteers Passes Senate Committee

By Paul L. Cooke, CSFCA Executive Director



Senator Mike Kopp (left) and Four Mile Fire Chief Bret Gibson (right) listen as Larkspur Fire Chief Jamey Bumgarner testifies on House Bill 1334 before Senate Local Government Committee. (Photo Courtesy of the CSFCA)

March 20, 2008 – House Bill 1334, Concerning Health Insurance for Emergency Services Volunteers was heard by Senate Local Government Committee today and took another step towards becoming law. HB 1334 was amended in committee to include not-for-profit, nongovernmental entities providing fire protection or EMS within the scope of the legislation. It was then passed on a unanimous vote to the full Senate for 2nd reading with the recommendation that it be placed on the "consent calendar." This means that the committee believes it a non-controversial bill so no floor debate is needed.

HB-1334, by State Rep. Rob Witwer and State Sen. Mike Kopp, would allow local governments to provide group

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Volunteer Health Insurance Bill Passes Senate Committee

(from page 1)

health care coverage to emergency services volunteers and the authority to participate in a health insurance pool for such volunteers.

Testifying in committee on behalf of the bill was Bret Gibson, Fire Chief of the Four Mile Fire Department (Boulder County), and Larkspur Fire Chief Jamey Bumgarner. They were joined by CSFCA Executive Director Paul Cooke, Howard Paul of the EMS Association of Colorado and the Colorado SAR Board, and John Singer of the Colorado State Fire Fighters Association. Additional compelling testimony on the need for the bill came from Jerome Stiller of Alpine Rescue Team, Evergreen and Dan O'Sullivan, formerly of Larimer County SAR Team.

In presenting his bill, Sen. Kopp told the members of Senate Local Government Committee that "it addresses two important issues, the need to provide tools to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and the need for affordable health care." Kopp said that "this is something we (the legislature) should have done long ago."

The idea for the bill was brought forward by the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association (CSFCA) in response to the suggestion made by Director Gary Whitfield of the Telluride Fire District at the CSFCA's Volunteer Chief Officer's Section meeting held in Breckenridge last November. The suggestion, as a means to address a real need, as well as to impact the problem of volunteer recruitment and retention, won unanimous support from the Volunteer Chiefs Section and then the CSFCA Board of Directors.

Rep. Witwer, who clearly recognizes the significant contribution made by the volunteer fire service in the protection of the citizens and visitors to Colorado, was quick to act. His response to the suggestion of proposed legislation was, "if it will help the volunteer fire service, let's get it done."

According to CSFCA Executive Director Paul Cooke, "across the state and nation the number of volunteer firefighters has been declining for years." Cooke added that "while local governments have recognized the decreasing numbers of volunteers, they have been hard pressed to identify specific measures to control the decline and recruit new volunteers." "This bill will provide one more tool in the tool chest to help address this issue," Cooke said.

According to the CSFCA, 62% of the fire departments in the state are all-volunteer. An additional 27% of the fire departments are combination career and volunteer, relying on volunteer firefighters to supplement the paid staff. There are an estimated 9,450 active volunteer firefighters in the state (about 63% of all firefighters).

Kopp Measure Offers Much-Needed Assistance to Thousands of Volunteer Firefighters

Colorado Senate News.com
March 20, 2008

The Senate Local Government committee gave unanimous support to a Republican measure intended to help fire departments recruit and retain volunteer firefighters--helping them secure health-care coverage.

"Many of our state's 250 fire protection districts rely on volunteer firefighters and there has been a decline in the number of those willing to volunteer," said bill sponsor Sen. Mike Kopp, a Littleton

Republican. "By simply de-regulating the insurance market a little we can make a big difference on the cost of health care that our state's volunteer firefighters must pay."

House Bill 1334 would allow volunteer firefighters to pool their numbers in order to buy affordable health insurance. The bill's advocates say many people are hesitant to become volunteer firefighters because of the high price and difficulty of finding insurance.

"Volunteer firefighters are the backbone of our organization" Jamie Bumgarner, Fire Chief of the Larkspur Fire Protection District, told committee members. "This is a chance to make a difference, and to change the future (for volunteer firefighters) down the road."



Senator Mike Kopp (R-Littleton)

The Larkspur Fire Department was on the front line of the 2002 Hayman fire, which destroyed 133 homes, and 467 other buildings southwest of Denver. The fire was the largest in Colorado's history.

Kopp, a former "hot shot" forest firefighter himself, is joined in sponsoring the bill by Rep. Rob Witwer, R-Genesee, whose foothills district includes the site of the Hi Meadow fire and Buffalo Creek fire in recent years. The bill is part of a package of Republican bills and resolutions aimed at anticipating future wildfires and bolstering the work of community firefighting programs. The bills are part of the GOP legislative agenda for 2008.

Kopp and Witwer came up with the package because they say the issue hits too close to home to be ignored. Kopp wants to take what he says is a lifetime of education on the subject of forest fires and put it to use for his foothills constituents. They are often in harm's way due to wildfires.

"If the Hayman and Missionary Ridge fires taught us anything, it's that the threat is real, and the state needs to act decisively to mitigate the impact of future fires," Witwer said. "If we wait until tomorrow to act, it will be too late."

Note: Colorado Senate News is an online service of the Senate Minority Office.

Can't Stop Fires, But Can Make Them a Higher Priority

By Rob Witwer
March 15, 2008

If you've been to Summit or Grand counties lately, you've seen the effects of the largest and most catastrophic pine beetle infestation in decades.

As the Rocky Mountain News recently reported, "Every large, mature lodgepole pine forest in Colorado and southern Wyoming will be dead within three to five years," based on projections from the U.S. Forest Service. The Rocky further reported that the outbreak, which began in 1996, has infested 1.5 million acres of trees, culminating in an unbelievable 500,000 additional acres in 2007 alone.

This should be a wake-up call to state and federal policy makers. As the infestation spreads and more trees die, it will affect tourism and water quality, not to mention the increased risk of catastrophic wildfire caused by the proliferation of dry, dead trees.

As I've written in this space before, Sen. Mike Kopp, R-Littleton, and I have been concerned about the state's wildfire preparedness even without the added problems caused by pine beetles; when the beetles are added to the equation, however, it's a matter of the utmost importance.

Legislators, while generally aware of the issues, approach the problem with varying degrees of urgency. For example, a bill sponsored by Kopp and myself to provide a state income tax deduction for homeowners who reduce hazardous fuels in wildfire-prone areas has so far enjoyed bipartisan support, and awaits one of its final hearings in the Senate Committee Appropriations.

If passed, we hope this law would provide a financial incentive to private landowners who wish to fireproof not only their own property, but the overall forest system in which they live.

But another proposal to give a modest \$250 tax credit to volunteer firefighters to help offset the costs of their service was killed by the House committee on finance on a near party-line vote (Douglas Bruce of Colorado Springs was the lone Republican "no" vote, and Jerry Frangas of Denver was the lone Democratic "yes" vote).

The demise of this latter bill was surprising, especially in light of ample testimony about the challenges faced by volunteer fire departments in recruiting and retaining volunteers. A well-trained volunteer fire department could well mean the difference between a ten-acre blaze and a 100,000-acre wildfire.

Although it's a much larger subject that I can cover in this column, let me just say that I'm concerned that if the state doesn't do more to support volunteer fire departments, which comprise 62 percent of the state's fire departments, the effectiveness of this vital resource may gradually diminish, leaving the state to fill in the gaps.

There are other measures moving through the legislative process, and some will pass — but are they enough? Are we being too alarmist, or are we more akin to the people who pointed to the dikes around New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina and expressed concern that they might not hold?

I hope it's not the latter, but we know for a fact that trees that are not cut or burned accumulate as fuel — and dead trees are the most volatile fuel of all. It is a matter of when, not if, a wildfire season like the one we experienced in 2002 will revisit Colorado. The state legislature cannot prevent the natural fire cycle from occurring, but it's time that we move wildfires higher up the list of state priorities.

Rob Witwer is the state representative for House District 25, which encompasses the Evergreen area and most of western Jefferson County.

School Safety Measure Clears First Hurdle

Colorado Senate News.com
March 5, 2008

The Senate Local Government Committee unanimously embraced a Republican measure Tuesday that will modernize emergency planning so students, teachers and first-responders can act fast in an emergency.

"We need to build upon some of the lessons we've learned here in Colorado related to school safety," said Castle Rock Republican, Sen. Tom Wiens, the Senate sponsor of the legislation.

"During the school season, almost a fifth of our state's population is in a school everyday, about 800,000 people. School safety is an important issue that needs close attention," Wiens said. "I recently spent a lot of time talking to school officials, both around the state and in my district, about school safety and ways to keep our kids as safe as possible."

Senate Bill 181, which is part of the Republicans' 2008 legislative agenda for education, requires that teachers and school staff take a brief online course intended to help them and their schools better prepare for a wide range of possible incidents--from natural disasters to violent acts--in order to prevent or minimize loss of life.

"If there is an incident at the school, it's the teacher who is the really the first responder."

"The more I talked to educators around the state, I realized, if there is an incident at the school, it's the teacher who is the really the first responder," said Wiens. "There is a real desire by (teachers) to be educated so they know how to best react to incidents--incidents other than just a fire."

Wiens pointed to a recent tragedy in his own Senate district as an example. In 2006, an armed man entered Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, southwest of Denver, and took four students hostage at gunpoint, eventually killing 16-year-old junior Emily Keyes as police stormed the classroom.

SB 181 will formalize and standardize what schools are already doing to ensure the safety of their students and staff, Wiens said. The training is intended to mirror The National Incident Management System, created by Homeland Security Presidential Directive Five, which standardizes methods all emergency responders should follow to plan, coordinate and carry out the response to a variety of incidents.

Reflecting proven practices of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Fire Administration and a host of other federal agencies, the legislation provides flexibility and support for integrated, collaborative action by schools, during a crisis.

Teachers, under this legislation, have the option of taking the course online or in a classroom.

SB181 now moves onto the full senate for consideration.

Note: Colorado Senate News.com is an online service of the Senate Minority Office.

CO Detectors Required By Law?

By Tak Landrock, KJCT8.com
March 14, 2008

Colorado Springs – A State Senate bill aimed at saving lives in Colorado is facing strong opposition. Senate Bill 187 would require any home sold after July 1st to have a working Carbon Monoxide detector in almost every room if there is a fuel-burning heater, fireplace, or attached garage.

"I think it would be good for everyone to have," says Colorado Springs resident Greg Davis. He and his family almost died back in February of 2002 when a faulty furnace caused the poisonous gas to spread through the home while the family slept. Says Davis, "I remember being physically sick, because it's a terrible feeling, you just feel like you can't breath and you feel nauseous all at the same time." He was able to get his wife and two kids out of the home just in time. "If we hadn't

gotten that alarm, we would have been one of those families, the firefighters told us 'you're really lucky.'"

In Colorado nine people die every year because of carbon monoxide poisoning. The bill's sponsor, Democratic Senator Bob Hagedorn of Aurora, feels it will help potential victims avoid the avoidable, but it is meeting tough opposition. "I think the general public can understand those public health issues and they can deal with it on their own," says Republican Senator Dave Schultheis of Colorado Springs. "I don't think it's something because we had one, two, whatever, very few deaths in Colorado to make this a mandate for all construction you have here on out." He feels if this bill passes, it's "Big Brother" watching over your safety.

The Home Builders Association and The Apartment association will oppose the bill when it goes in front of a committee on Thursday. Those organizations feel it will add unnecessary cost to new homes and force apartments to spend millions of dollars to put CO detectors in apartments.

Action on Other Bills of Interest

This past week the legislature took the following action on other bills of interest to the Colorado fire service:

HB08-1027, Concerning Building Inspection Requirements for Educational Institutions (Rep. Mitchell V., Sen. Taylor) was heard by Senate Education Committee on March 19, 2008 and was passed unanimously to Senate Appropriations.

SB08-187, Carbon Monoxide Alarms in Residential Properties (Sen. Hagedorn, Rep. Soper) was taken up by Senate Health and Human Services Committee on March 19, 2008 and was referred unamended to Business, Labor and Technology on a vote of 4-2.

HB08-1360, Fire Arson Investigators as Peace Officers (Rep. Witwer, Sen. Kopp) was heard by House Judiciary Committee on March 19, 2008 and was passed unamended to the House Committee of the Whole.

Status of Bills of Interest

Attached is a summary of the status of bills of interest to the fire service that are being tracked by the Association, current as of March 22, 2008.

For comments or questions concerning this Legislative Update, contact Paul L. Cooke, CSFCA Executive Director at (720) 874-8116 or paul@coloradofirechiefs.org.

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**Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association
Bills of Interest**

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title	Bill Summary	Status	Notes	Position
SB08-001	Senate: Morse House: Stephens	Concerning Creation of a School Safety Resource Center within the Department of Public Safety.	Creates in the department of public safety the school safety resource center to assist schools in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and crisis situations. Sets forth the duties of the center. Authorizes the center to employ staff and contract for services.	02/06/2008 Senate Committee on Judiciary Refer Amended to Appropriations		Monitor
SB08-009	Senate: Tochtrop House: Rice	Concerning Measures to Ensure the Proper Payment of Fire and Police Pension Benefits.	Establishes penalties related to fire and police pension death and disability survivor benefits for a member who, as otherwise required by law, fails to submit to a medical examination or fails to provide information to the board of directors of the fire and police pension association or its designee.	03/13/2008 Sent to the Governor		Monitor
SB08-011	Senate: Morse House: Massey	Concerning Funding for the Provision of Uncompensated Trauma Care to Persons Injured in Motor Vehicle Accidents in Colorado.	Establishes the emergency responders and trauma care reimbursement program in the department of public health and environment to reimburse emergency and trauma care providers for uncompensated care provided to patients injured in a motor vehicle accident.	01/9/2008 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Health and Human Services		Support
SB08-026	Senate: Hagedorn House: White	Concerning a Requirement that Cigarettes Sold in Colorado Meet Specified Standards for Reduced Ignition Propensity.	Requires all cigarettes sold in Colorado on or after July 31, 2009, to be tested for, and to meet, specified standards for reduced ignition propensity. Specifies labeling to identify complying cigarettes. Prescribes the testing methods to be used. Requires manufacturers to certify in writing that their cigarettes have been tested and meet the standards.	03/10/2008 House Committee on Health and Human Services Refer Amended to Appropriations		Support
SB08-039	Senate: Kopp House: Witwer	Concerning a Training Program for Directors of Fire Protection Districts in Wild Land-Urban Interface Areas.	Directs the division of fire safety in the office of preparedness, security, and fire safety in the department of public safety to establish a pilot program by a specified date to offer training courses to board members of fire protection districts whose territory includes wildland-urban interface areas. Specifies the course subjects.	03/06/2008 House Local Government Committee Refer to Appropriations Unamended	SB-39 was heard by House Local Government Committee on March 6, 2008. It was passed, unamended to House Appropriations Committee on a vote of 10-0 (1 absent).	Support as amended

**Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association
Bills of Interest**

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title	Bill Summary	Status	Notes	Position
SB08-051	Senate: Taylor House: Marshall	Concerning a Grant of Additional Enforcement Authority to the Director of the Division of Oil and Public Safety.	Grants enforcement authority to the director of the division of oil and public safety in the department of labor and employment for violations of laws and rules concerning boilers and explosives. Allows the director to seek an injunction restraining a person from violating laws or rules concerning public school construction, boilers, and explosives. Allows the division to inspect blast sites. Requires an entity that conducts blasting to notify the division.	02/05/2008 Senate Committee on Business, Labor and Technology Refer Amended to Appropriations	SB-51 is scheduled to be heard by Senate Appropriations Committee on Friday, March 28, 2008 – upon adjournment in SCR 356.	Monitor
SB08-071	Senate: Gibbs House: Scanlan	Concerning Extension of the Repeal Date of the Forest Restoration Pilot Program, and, in Connection Therewith, Extending the Repeal Date of the Technical Advisory Panel.	Extends the repeal date for the forest restoration pilot program and the technical advisory panel to July 1, 2012.	01/31/2008 Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources & Energy Refer Amended to Appropriations		Support
SB08-080	Senate: Kopp House: Witwer	Concerning an Income Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters.	For income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2008, but prior to January 1, 2018, there shall be allowed a credit with respect to the income taxes imposed pursuant to the provisions of this article in the amount of \$125 per income tax year to any qualified volunteer firefighter.	02/07/2008 Senate Committee on Finance Postpone Indefinitely	SB08-080 was taken up by Senate Finance Committee on 02/07/08. As expected, the sponsor asked the committee to PI the bill as it is a revenue reduction bill and must start in the House. This action has the same effect as killing the bill.	Amend & Support
SB08-103	Senate: Tochtrop House: None	Concerning a Requirement that a Portion of the Property Tax Revenues Collected by an Urban Renewal Authority In Connection With Tax Increment Financing be Shared with Other Local Governments.	Commencing with the first property tax year in which any payment of property taxes are allocated and paid into a special fund to pay off indebtedness incurred by an urban renewal project, requires an urban renewal authority to make an annual payment to the other public bodies that share in the revenues produced by the property tax levy, including counties, school districts, and special districts, in an amount that is not less than a specified percentage of the amount of revenues from the property tax levy paid into the special fund in that year.	02/21/2008 Senate Committee on Local Government Postpone Indefinitely		Support

**Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association
Bills of Interest**

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title	Bill Summary	Status	Notes	Position
SB08-116	Senate: Kester House: Looper	Concerning a Requirement that Employers of a Specified Size Allow Employees Who Are Volunteer Firefighters to Leave Work to Respond to an Emergency Summons.	Protects the jobs of employees who leave work to respond to specified emergency summonses as volunteer firefighters when the employer employs more than 50 employees, has been notified previously of the employee's status as a trained and certified volunteer firefighter, and receives written verification that the employee so responded.	03/14/2008 Senate Considered House Amendments - Result was to Concur - Repass	SB 116 was amended in the House to conform it to language in HB 1097. The Senate concurred with the House amendments.	Support as amended
SB08-158	Senate: Tochtrop House: None	Concerning the Inclusion for Urban Renewal Purposes of Unincorporated Land Within a County That is Contiguous to a Portion of an Urban Renewal Area Located Within a Municipality.	Permits an urban renewal plan, urban renewal project, or urban renewal area to include unincorporated territory outside the boundaries of a municipality but contiguous to a portion of the urban renewal area located within the municipality. Prohibits such territory from being included in the plan, project, or area without the consent of the board of county commissioners and the consent of each owner of real property within the unincorporated area proposed for inclusion.	03/20/2008 Signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House		Monitor
SB08-181	Senate: Wiens House: Massey	Concerning Measures to Improve Coordination Among Agencies When Responding to School Incidents.	Directs the department of public safety to recommend and the executive director of the department to adopt by rule portions of the national response framework and the national incident management system ("NIMS") with which each public school in Colorado is required to comply. Requires a school district board of education and the state charter school institute adopt a school response framework with specified elements. [more]	03/19/2008 Senate Third Reading Passed		Monitor
SB08-187	Senate: Hagedorn House: Soper	Concerning a Requirement that Carbon Monoxide Alarms be Installed in Residential Properties.	Requires any existing single-family dwelling or dwelling unit of an existing multi-family dwelling offered for sale or transfer on or after July 1, 2008, that has a fuel-burning heater or appliance, a fireplace, or an attached garage to have an operational carbon monoxide alarm installed within a specified distance of each room lawfully used for sleeping purposes.	02/26/2008 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Health and Human Services	SB-187 was taken up by Senate Committee on Health and Human Services on March 19, 2008 and was referred unamended to Business, Labor and Technology on a vote of 4-2.	Support, Seek to Amend

Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association
Bills of Interest

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title	Bill Summary	Status	Notes	Position
HOUSE BILLS						
HB08-1009	House: Massey Senate: Morse	Concerning Emergency Medical Care Coverage in Connection With an Automobile Insurance Policy Issued in Colorado.	Requires an automobile insurance policy issued, delivered, or renewed on or after January 1, 2009, to contain emergency medical care coverage of at least \$15,000 to cover the costs of all medically necessary and accident-related emergency medical care services provided to a person injured in a motor vehicle accident.	01/9/2008 Introduced In House - Assigned to Business Affairs and Labor		Monitor
HB08-1027	House: V. Mitchell Senate: Taylor	Concerning Building Inspection Requirements for Educational Institutions.	Clarifies the role of the division of oil and public safety in delegating the responsibility of performing inspections of public school buildings and junior college district buildings to a building department or a 3rd-party inspector. Requires a memorandum of understanding between the division and a building department that wishes to perform inspections.	03/19/2008 Senate Committee on Education Refer Unamended to Appropriations	HB 1027 was heard by Senate Education Committee on March 19, 2008 and was passed unanimously to Senate Appropriations.	Support as amended
HB08-1070	House: Riesberg Senate: Tochtrop	Concerning the Redetermination of Benefits Payable Under the Fire and Police Pension Association's Statewide Defined Benefit Plan for New Hire Members	Modifies how the board of directors of the fire and police pension association may increase the benefits payable under statewide defined benefit plans for members of the association hired on or after April 8, 1978.	02/21/2008 Governor Action - Signed		Monitor
HB08-1097	House: Lambert Senate: Romer	Concerning the Provision of Protections to Certain Types of Volunteers Who Volunteer Their Services in a State-Level Emergency Situation.	Prohibits any employer from discriminating against or discharging from employment any member of the civil air patrol because of such membership and from preventing any member from performing a civil air patrol mission. Allows a member who is a public employee and who is called to duty for a civil air patrol mission to take a leave of absence from his or her employment without loss of pay or benefits during the period of the mission.	03/12/2008 House Considered Senate Amendments - Result was to Concur - Repass		Monitor

**Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association
Bills of Interest**

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title	Bill Summary	Status	Notes	Position
HB08-1103	House: J. Kerr Senate: Isgar	Concerning the Regulation of Amusement Rides by the Division of Oil and Public Safety.	Requires each operator of an amusement ride to submit an annual certificate of inspection to the division of oil and public safety for each amusement ride. Requires the director of the division to establish minimum certification requirements for inspectors. Requires the inspector of each ride to be an independent 3rd-party inspector. Requires the operator of an amusement ride to notify the division regarding injuries caused by amusement rides, the installation of new rides, and the schedule for the location of amusement rides.	03/17/2008 Senate Committee on Business, Labor and Technology Refer Amended to Appropriations		Monitor
HB08-1110	House: Witwer Senate: Kopp	Concerning an Income Tax Deduction For a Landowner's Direct Costs Incurred in Performing Wildfire Mitigation Measures.	Allows an income tax deduction for a landowner who performs wildfire mitigation measures on private land in a wildland-urban interface area.	03/14/2008 Senate Committee on Appropriations Committee - Tie Vote	HB 1110 was heard by Senate Appropriations Committee on March 14, 2008. The bill was pulled from consideration on a 5-5 tie vote. Someone will have to change their vote for the bill to move forward.	Support
HB08-1163	House: Sonnenberg, Senate: Bacon	Concerning an Exception to Statutory Requirements Governing the Collection of Excess Property Tax Revenue by Urban Renewal Authorities in Connection With Tax Increment Financing for Certain Special Districts Providing Emergency Services.	Commencing with the first property tax year in which the excess of any payment of property taxes is allocated and paid into a special fund on or after the effective date of the act in connection with tax increment financing by urban renewal authorities, prohibits any portion of any revenues from such excess that are allocated to any special district providing emergency services from being collected and paid into the special fund.	02/05/2008 House Committee on Finance Postpone Indefinitely		Amend & Support
HB08-1187	House: B. Gardner Senate: Spence	Concerning the Prohibition of Strikes Against Public Employers.	Prohibits every public employee and every employee organization from directly or indirectly inducing, instigating, encouraging, authorizing, ratifying, or participating in a strike against any public employer. Prohibits a public employer from consenting to or condoning a strike. In the event of a public employee strike or the imminent threat of a strike, authorizes the public employer to seek an injunction from the district court.	01/24/2008 House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor Postpone Indefinitely		Monitor

**Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association
Bills of Interest**

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title	Bill Summary	Status	Notes	Position
HB08-1249	House: Rice Senate: Kester	Concerning the Emergency Telephone Services Charge.	Clarifies that the 911 service charge applies to prepaid wireless and internet-based telephone systems. Sets standards for the collection of such service charge. Changes the timing of the distribution of 911 service fees to any time a service user is capable of accessing the emergency service. [more]	03/13/2008 Senate Committee on Transportation Pass Amended to Senate Committee of the Whole	HB 1249 was heard by Senate Transportation Committee on March 13, 2008 and was amended to remove prepaid wireless from the bill. The bill still requires VOIP providers to collect and remit the 9-1-1 surcharge. HB 1249 is scheduled for 2nd reading in the Senate for Monday, March 24, 2008.	Support
HB08-1251	House: Curry Senate: None	Concerning Hazardous Material Route Designations.	Enables a county to petition for changes to a hazardous material route designation with respect to any portion of a state- or county-maintained public road located within that county. Requires any entity petitioning for a route designation change to identify any alternate routes in its petition. [More]	02/14/2008 House Transportation & Energy Committee - Postpone Indefinitely		Monitor
HB08-1259	House: M. Carroll Senate: None	Concerning Increased Accountability Requirements for Special Districts.	A strike-below amendment to HB 1259 was passed by the House. This amendment eliminates all of the original bill relating to limiting districts serving outside their territory; doing away with May election date; requiring an annual report to be produced and sent to the county or city; mandatory voter information card mailed to all eligible electors prior to every special election.	03/20/2008 Senate Committee on Local Government Pass Amended to Senate Committee of the Whole		Monitor
HB08-1267	House: Massey Senate: None	Concerning the Creation of a First Responder School Mapping System.	Requires the school safety resource center in the department of public safety to create and operate a first responder school mapping system to provide first responders immediate access to maps of school buildings and other information in the event of an emergency at a school building. Requires the department to create the mapping system in accordance with the recommendations of the school safety resource center advisory board. [more]	02/21/2008 House Committee on Education Refer Amended to Appropriations		Monitor

**Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association
Bills of Interest**

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title	Bill Summary	Status	Notes	Position
HB08-1279	House: Bruce Senate: None	Concerning Governmental Land Use Regulations, and, in Connection Therewith, Requiring Land Developers to Pay Fees to Address the Impacts Caused By New Construction, Placing Limits on Fees For Changes in Permitted Uses of Real Property, Prohibiting the New Issuance or Application of Land Use Regulations in Specified Circumstances Without the Payment of Just Compensation, and Providing for Initiative Petition Rights by Which Electors May Vote to Limit or End Land Use Regulations.	Requires each land developer seeking to develop Colorado real property for new construction, but not for additions to existing structures, to pay, within a specified deadline after final plat approval or similar final approvals, a proportionate impact fee in an amount established by a public schedule related to the direct and indirect impacts of such development as specified in the act. On or after the effective date of the act, prohibits any local government, even with voter approval, from increasing taxes or issuing bonds, certificates of participation, leases, or any other legal borrowing instruments to finance new or expanded capital improvements that address growth caused by new construction for which impact fees under the act are being paid or will be paid to the local government. [more]	02/14/2008 House Committee on Local Government Postpone Indefinitely		Monitor
HB08-1315	House: Gallegos Senate: None	Concerning the Authorization for Volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians to Form a Pension Plan.	Expands the "Volunteer Firefighter Pension Act" to allow volunteer emergency medical technicians (EMTs) who are affiliated with an ambulance district to create and maintain a pension plan for volunteer EMTs. Specifies that the state shall provide a contribution to each volunteer EMT pension plan in an amount equal to a certain percentage of the tax revenue that the ambulance district receives for the plan. Provides certain job protections for volunteer EMTs. Specifies that a volunteer EMT's years of service for the purposes of receiving benefits shall be counted from the date that a volunteer EMT pension plan is created and starts receiving contributions.	02/19/2008 House Committee on Local Government Refer Amended to Appropriations		Monitor

**Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association
Bills of Interest**

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title	Bill Summary	Status	Notes	Position
HB08-1324	House: Witwer Senate: Kopp	Concerning an Income Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters.	For income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2008, but prior to January 1, 2018, there shall be allowed a credit with respect to the income taxes imposed pursuant to the provisions of this article in the amount of \$125 per income tax year to any qualified volunteer firefighter.	02/12/2008 House Committee on Finance Postpone Indefinitely		Support
HB08-1334	House: Witwer Senate: Kopp	Concerning Health Insurance for Bona Fide Volunteer Emergency Service Providers.	Authorizes emergency service providers to enter into group health insurance contracts with carriers for the purpose of providing insurance to bona fide volunteers who are active and in good standing. Allows the governing body of each emergency service provider the discretion to negotiate the details related to the procurement and administration of the insurance contracts. Specifies that bona fide volunteers and emergency service providers fall within the purview of existing group sickness and accident insurance law.	03/20/2008 Senate Committee on Local Government Pass Amended to Senate Committee of the Whole	HB 1334 was heard by Senate Local Government Committee on March 20, 2008. The bill was amended in committee to include not-for-profit, nongovernmental entities providing fire protection or EMS within the scope of the legislation. It was then passed on a unanimous vote to the full Senate for 2nd reading.	Support
HB08-1360	House: Witwer Senate: Kopp	Concerning Authorizing Fire Arson Investigators as Peace Officers.	Clarifies that a fire arson investigator authorized by a unit of local government is a peace officer while engaged in the performance of his or her duties.	03/19/2008 House Committee on Judiciary Pass Unamended to House Committee of the Whole	HB 1360 is scheduled to be heard on 2 nd reading on Monday, March 24, 2008.	No Position