

Legislation & State Budget Update

2021 Session 60th Day

REPRESENTATIVE
ROD PELTON
MINORITY WHIP



Friends and Neighbors,

We have just crossed the halfway point of the 2021 Legislative Session here at the Capitol, and there is still a great deal of work to be done.

While my debate and work on legislation continue, I wanted to give you an update on my work. These past couple of weeks, a number of my bills that I am sponsoring/co-sponsoring have made their way through the House of Representatives and the Senate. Here are where my bills stand:

SB21-079: Deregulate Meat Sales Direct to Consumers This bill would make it easier for ranchers to sell meat directly to consumers. A seller would not have to be licensed by a public health agency if the animal was raised and sold by the seller. The seller would only have to give a disclaimer that they are not licensed to the buyer; the meat is not intended for resale and does not involve interstate commerce. This bill **passed** both the House and Senate and after conference committee will head to Gov. Polis' desk, who has already voiced his support for the bill.

HB21-1097: Establish Behavioral Health Administration This bill would establish a Behavioral Health Administration to ensure Coloradoans experiencing behavioral health needs have access to services in their communities. A Behavioral Health Administration will bring major reforms to improve access to mental health care. This bill **passed** both the House and the Senate and will head to Gov. Polis' desk.

HB21-1187: Long-term Services And Support Case Management Redesign This bill streamlines and simplifies a complex system and improves access to programs available for people with disabilities. This legislation will help protect access to services in rural communities by ensuring adequate capacity by implementing conflict-free case management for individuals with developmental disabilities receiving long-term support services. This bill **passed** the House with a vote of 65-0 and will head to the Senate.

HB21-1056: Cost Thresholds For Public Project Bidding Requirements This bill is a bipartisan effort to help CDOT maintain existing infrastructure more efficiently. It repeals the lower cap cost amount for CDOT's maintenance projects. This bill **passed** the House and will head to the Senate.

I am proud of these pieces of legislation as I feel they will positively impact rural Colorado.

Additionally, this week my colleagues and I in the House of Representative are presented with Colorado's 2021-22 state budget. As budget discussions get underway House Republicans will focus on three priorities that will help Colorado: jobs, education and transportation.

These priorities are essential to Colorado's growth. 1) The people of Colorado want to get back to work and we as legislators should help them with rebuilding the workforce and getting our economy rolling again. 2) Students need to be back in the classroom, education is an essential part of life in rural Colorado and we will take immediate measures to make up for the loss of classroom time for our students and teachers. 3) Our roads and bridges need major improvements and it is time we fix these issues with already allocated funds-not another increase in fees.

Faithfully,
Representative Rod Pelton

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