

Report on the 2022 Session 45th Day

REPRESENTATIVE ROD
PELTON

Friends and Neighbors,

Work is ramping up here at the Capitol and we Republicans are fighting hard for all Coloradans. The Democrats have been running bill after bill that will only drive up the cost of living in our state and trample on our already weak freedoms and liberties. Despite these challenges, we have had several phenomenal victories in the legislature.

PASSED COMMITTEE HB22-1168 ‘Public School Hunter Education Seventh Grade Course’: After some outstanding public testimony, this bill was passed unanimously and is now headed to the floor of the House. This bill provides the ability for schools to offer a Hunter’s Education course to middle schoolers. We hope that by offering quality and certified safety programs, our children will have the opportunity to learn and develop the skills necessary to promote conservation, safe hunting, and safe firearms practices.

PASSED HOUSE HB22-1101 ‘Public Employees’ Retirement Association Service Retiree Employment In Rural Schools’: The bill expands a program that allows a public employees’ retirement association (PERA) service retiree to work full-time without any reduction in the service retiree’s retirement benefits for a rural school district that has a critical shortage of qualified individuals with specific experience, skills, or qualifications that the service retiree has. This bill has passed the House and is on its way to the Senate.

PASSED COMMITTEE HB22-1013 ‘Microgrids For Community Resilience Grant Program’: This bill seeks to create a grant program designed to fund rural ‘Microgrid’ projects, through awarding grants, in the least resilient communities of rural Colorado. A ‘Microgrid’, when installed, will allow a community to keep their lights on when a storm knocks out a town’s powerline connection to the powerplant, or some other disconnection is caused in the grid. This bill has passed the House Committee on Energy and the Environment and is on its way to the Committee on Appropriations.

PASSED HOUSE HB22-1090 ‘Reasonable Independence For Children’: The bill clarifies that a child is not neglected when allowed to participate in certain independent activities that a reasonable and prudent parent, guardian, or legal custodian would consider safe given the child’s maturity, condition, and abilities. Prior to this bill, Colorado’s definition of neglect left many parents worried that simple everyday actions taken by their kids, such as walking to school by themselves, could be misinterpreted as neglect. This bill clarifies that responsible children have the independence to simply be kids.

We’re just over a third-of-the-way through the session; keep in touch with updates to hear about the work being done at your Colorado legislature!

Faithfully,

Representative Rod Pelton



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