



IN THIS ISSUE:

February 27, 2008

Can't Join the Capitol Trip? Listen Live!

CAN'T JOIN THE CAPITOL TRIP? LISTEN LIVE!

For Chamber members not able to travel over the hill next week, the Chamber will offer live audio broadcast of its legislative program at the Capitol on March 6 from 12:00 – 4:00p.m. The program agenda includes the following discussions:

Chamber Opposes Real Estate Fee Bills

Eight Bills Now Signed by Governor Ritter

- 12:00 - Luncheon with Sen. Penry and Reps. King & Buescher
- 1:25 - Attorney General John Suthers
- 2:00 - Speaker Andrew Romanoff
- 2:30 - Harris Sherman, Dept. of Nat. Resources
- 3:00 - Russ George, CDOT
- 3:40 - Governor Bill Ritter

Business Bills Under the Dome

Governmental Affairs Videoconference Series

To listen live, just visit the [Legislative Homepage](#) and click on [Video/Audio Broadcasts of Current Proceedings](#), then select House Committee Room 0109 for the 12:00 session only, and select the Old Supreme Court Chambers for the remaining sessions.

Legislative Trip Registration Final Call! - Please remember to be at the Chamber by **6:45 a.m.** on Thursday morning as the bus will depart for Denver at 7:00 a.m. There are still 6 seats remaining on the bus, so register now to reserve your spot! Registrations will be taken up until Friday, Feb. 29. Registration is \$325 per person/single occupancy or \$285 per person/double occupancy and includes transportation, lodging and meals. Register by contacting Ryan at rlongman@gjchamber.org or by calling 263-2917.

UPCOMING CHAMBER ACTIVITY:

March 5 - Directory Delivery, 7:30 a.m. Redlands Community Center ~ Hot Breakfast!

March 6-7 - Legislative Trip to the Capitol

March 12 - Marketing 101, 11:00 a.m. Chamber Office

March 26 - Energy Briefing, 7:30 a.m. Chamber Office

CHAMBER OPPOSES REAL ESTATE FEE BILLS

Yesterday, the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee took action to oppose two bills aimed at the real estate industry. [House Bill 1340](#) seeks to increase documentary fees on real estate transactions in an effort to fund affordable housing. The increased fee would be subject to voter approval. [Senate Bill 162](#) would deal with interest earned on funds in trust accounts, also seeking to use the funds to fund affordable housing. While seemingly well intentioned, the bills would create more bureaucracy while providing no real benefit. The Chamber Board recently adopted a legislative policy on housing. To view the Chamber's new housing

policy, click [here](#).

As of today, the Chamber has taken position on a total of **25** bills, supporting 10 and opposing 15. For the latest status on these and other bills the Chamber is currently tracking, view our [Bill Tracking Report](#) on the Chamber's Web site.

Chamber Energy
Briefing Series Fact
Sheets Available
Now!

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EIGHT BILLS NOW SIGNED BY GOV. RITTER

Now 50 days into the legislative session and over 500 bills introduced, Governor Ritter has signed eight bills thus far. [HB-1020](#) gives plaintiffs in civil court cases the upper hand in recovering settlement offer costs (a bill the Chamber **opposed**); [HB-1051](#) makes modifications to statutory language concerning core services for families; [HB-1070](#) deals with the benefits paid to police officers and firefighters through the Pension Reform Commission; [HB-1024](#) eliminate requirements on CSAP longitudinal analysis models; [HB-1015](#) authorizes local governments to appropriate moneys to market their respective county/municipality; [HB-1155](#) allows the Secretary of State to continue the certification process of voting systems for 2008; [HB-1006](#) allows for children in foster care to visit with their siblings; [HB-1037](#) increases expenditures for legislative departments.

BUSINESS BILLS UNDER THE DOME

The Senate overwhelmingly approved a GOP plan yesterday, helping employers screen for illegal immigrants in the work force. [Senate Bill 139](#) would require the state to notify employers that they can participate in the federal "E-Verify" program, which lets them check if a newly hired employee is in the country illegally. The bill places no mandates on employers, instead apprising them of a tool they may not know about.

Source: [ColoradoSenateNews.com](#)

The Senate also gave final approval to [SB-082](#), a bill that would allow liquor stores to open on Sundays. Usually protested by liquor store owners, the bill received support this year in hopes of blocking another proposal that would have allowed supermarkets to sell full-strength beer and wine. Lawmakers killed the supermarket bill earlier this month. The Sunday sales bill now moves to the House.

Source: *Associated Press*

The House unanimously passed [HB-1183](#) that would modify a state program that provides incentives from the New Jobs Incentives Cash Fund to businesses who help boost the economy by creating new jobs. The modifications make it easier for employers to qualify for the incentives offered and simplify the process. The bill now moves to the Senate.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS VIDEOCONFERENCE SERIES

[Mesa County](#) will sponsor the Chamber's next legislative videoconference, scheduled for Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Western Colorado Community College Campus in Building B. For a look at Committee action on current legislation, visit the [Governmental Affairs](#) page on the Chamber Web site and click on Bill Tracking Sheets.

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