



## **SUPPORT HB 17-1275 - BUILDING COLORADO'S RECYCLING ECONOMY**

Rep. Faith Winter and Sen. Kevin Priola

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### **What does this bill do?**

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#### **Builds our recycling economy through market development.**

- Colorado throws away an estimated \$267 million every year in recyclable materials that could have been sold on commodity markets. Attracting recycling industries to the state will keep this money in our local economy and reduce the transportation costs that hinder many recycling programs, particularly in rural areas.
- This bill applies the expertise of the Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT) to add and expand new local recycling markets that create jobs and keep dollars in Colorado.

#### **Quantifies Colorado's solid waste stream.**

- Colorado lacks basic data on the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) disposed from homes and businesses. This bill requires landfills to report MSW collected as a separate category from other wastes including industrial and agricultural wastes. The majority of landfills already collect this data onsite.
- Technical support will be provided to help landfills collect and report the data.
- An exemption is given automatically to small landfills until technical assistance and tools can be provided.
- Better data will also help new recycling businesses locate to Colorado by quantifying the amount of materials available in our waste stream.

#### **Provides technical support resources to all interested communities.**

- This bill uses existing funding to provide technical assistance to cities and counties for recycling initiatives. This includes solid waste planning, developing recycling infrastructure and services, and grant writing.
- Currently there are no resources at the state level to help cities and counties expand recycling.
- CDPHE is required to report to the state annually on these services to provide accountability for their time and resources.

#### **Sets reasonable recycling goals for urban and rural areas.**

- Colorado residents want more access to recycling at home and at work. This bill lays the framework of data collection needed to set two-tiered recycling goals for the state, one for urban areas and one for rural areas.
- These voluntary goals will help cities and counties invest in recycling programs and measure their progress against their peers and collectively as a state.

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## What does this bill NOT do?

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***This bill is NOT a mandate to implement the state's Integrated Solid Waste Materials Management plan (ISWMMP).***

- The contents of HB17-1275 were not recommended in the ISWMMP (which was released in 2016) and do not specifically address ISWMMP needs.
- The ISWMMP was developed for CDPHE - CDPHE did not develop and does not support (or oppose) this bill. This bill was developed by the state's recycling, reuse and remanufacturing industries, local governments, and non-profits.

***The bill asks for voluntary county reporting on recycling rates.***

- The bill does not require counties to add or expand current recycling programs.
- The bill will not require counties to change what waste management facilities they own or use, what programs they operate, or what policies they implement.
- Counties who do choose to report will receive additional points during the Resource Recovery Economic Opportunity (RREO) grant review evaluation to help fund new recycling efforts.

***The reporting requirement is NOT a significant new burden on public or private landfills.***

- Colorado landfills have been required since 1995 to report total incoming tons.
- The bill requires landfills to report the percentage of waste that comes from homes and businesses versus other sources. Landfills are in the best position to provide this data to the state. Landfills are not asked to quantify other waste streams, just to track residential and commercial waste.
- Many landfills already track this data and others can obtain this information with minimal additional effort.
- For landfills that don't differentiate these streams currently, easy-to-implement guidance on how to estimate and measure this will be provided.

***As soon as the bill is passed, the small landfill waiver will NOT expire.***

- In 2015 the state's small landfills represent only 0.65% of solid waste disposed in Colorado and will not significantly impact that assessment.
- There is no expectation that this waiver will be repealed by law or removed by state agencies.
- The bill amendment (passed by the House Transportation & Energy Committee on April 13<sup>th</sup>) not only increases the waiver threshold to 12,000 tons/year but automatically applies the reporting waiver until landfills have received reporting guidance and tools (they don't have to apply for or request the waiver).

***This bill does NOT take away grant funds needed for awards for local infrastructure.***

- Less than 5% of current RREO funds will be allocated to the data analysis, market development and technical assistance activities that CDPHE and OEDIT will be charged with.
- The outcome of this expenditure will i) result in new tools to help counties be more successful in obtaining grant funds and ii) improve the economics of recycling by increasing in-state markets for recycled materials – in effect, the bill will increase the value of RREO funds state-wide.

***The bill does NOT prioritize regionalizing landfills.***

- The bill does not require any local government or private business to regionalize their landfill.
- The bill directs CDPHE to provide guidance and tools to local governments that are interested in regional planning initiatives if and where this makes sense.
- Regional planning is not limited to landfills and can apply to any type of waste management infrastructure, including facilities for reuse, recycling, composting, household hazardous waste and electronic waste.

***The bill does NOT give CDPHE and OEDIT broad authority or funding.***

- CDPHE and OEDIT will be held accountable on multiple fronts – total staffing and expenses are limited to a small fraction (< 5%) of RREO funds.
- CDPHE will be limited to 1.5 new staff, and this will automatically be repealed in five years.
- CDPHE is required to justify staff used, technical assistance and training provided, and communities helped every year.

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**WHO SUPPORTS HB 17-1275**

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**Colorado Association for Recycling  
Colorado Communities for Climate Action  
Conservation Colorado  
Boulder County  
Pitkin County  
Republic Services  
Summit County Resource Allocation Park**

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