

# 2017 End-of-Session Report

Representative Mike Foote

## **HB17-1040: Interception Of Human Trafficking Communications** *(Signed into Law)*

This bill is a big step forward in Colorado's efforts to curb human trafficking. HB17-1040 will allow judges to issue warrants for wiretaps and intercepting electronic communications of people suspected of partaking in human trafficking just as they can currently do with other conspiracy and violent crime investigations.

## **HB17-1188: Harassment Sexual Orientation Or Disability** *(Signed into Law)*

Under current law, it is a criminal misdemeanor to intimidate or harass another person because of their race, color, religion, ethnicity or national origin. HB17-1188 bill adds mental or physical disabilities and sexual orientation to the harassment statute. This bill will guarantee that the rights of disabled and LGBT individuals equally protected under Colorado law.

## **HB17-1256: Oil And Gas Facilities Distance From School Property** *(Lost in the Senate)*

Current law requires oil and gas facilities to be at least 1000 feet from high occupancy buildings like schools. However, this distance is only measured from the center of an oil and gas facility to the front door of the building. This bill will extend the setback to the border of a school's property line rather than the front door of the school. We need to better account for the safety of children by making sure heavy industrial facilities are safe distances from schools, their athletic facilities, and playgrounds. Unfortunately the oil and gas industry opposed the effort and this common sense effort died along party lines.

## **HB17-1288: Penalties for DUI Offenders** *(On its way to the Governor)*

Under current law, individuals convicted of three DUIs face a minimum 60-day sentence in jail. However, a large percentage of offenders convicted of felony dui (4<sup>th</sup> or subsequent) since it was enacted in 2015 received no jail in their sentence. HB17-1288 closes this loophole by requiring a minimum 90-day jail sentence for 4<sup>th</sup> and subsequent dui offenses.

## **HB17-1305: Limits on Job Applicant Criminal History Inquiries** *(Lost in the Senate)*

Many individuals with criminal histories have trouble finding employment after they have paid their debt to society. This is partly because employers screen job applications from applicants who have been convicted of a crime. HB17-1305 would have prohibited employers from requiring applicants to disclose their criminal history on their initial written on or-line job application. Increasing opportunities to find work and financial security helps reduce recidivism and improves the economy. Everyone should have the opportunity for a second chance, but unfortunately this bill was opposed by the business lobby and died on party lines in the Senate.

## **HB17-1336: Additional Protections Forced Pooling Order** *(Lost in the Senate)*

A provision in Colorado law allows oil and gas companies to force mineral owners to lease their property if just one neighboring owner wants to lease their minerals. This is a process known as "forced pooling." While many aspects of this process need to be reviewed, this bill focused specifically on making the process more transparent. HB17-1336 would have increased the notice given to a property owner for a hearing to 90 days, required operators to provide a clear and concise summary of what forced pooling is, and required operators to report to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission how many mineral owners are forced to lease their minerals. The oil and gas industry opposed this transparency measure and it died in the republican-

controlled senate.

**HB17-1372: Oil Gas Operators Disclose Pipe Location Development Plans** *(Filibustered)*

Following the tragic home explosion in Firestone this April, investigators found a severed pipeline, which was improperly disconnected from a nearby natural gas well, caused the explosion. HB17-1372 was introduced late in the session after the firestone investigation was completed as part of an effort to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again. The bill was very simple: it required oil and gas companies to disclose the location of their underground pipelines in a public database. Unfortunately, in the face of oil and gas industry opposition, Republican lawmakers filibustered this bill and it missed the deadline to be introduced in the Senate before the end of the session.

**SB17-034: Disaster Emergency Transfers From County General Funds** *(Signed into Law)*

While 2013 may seem like a long time ago, there is still work to be done recovering from the floods that year. This legislation will aid flood recovery by doubling the time period counties may use general fund money to repair roads and bridges damaged by disasters.

**SB17-145: Electric Utility Distribution Grid Resource Acquisition Plan** *(Lost in the Senate)*

Renewable energy is one of the fastest growing and most important industries in Colorado. This bill would have helped the development of renewable energy by making it easier to integrate renewable energy resources into the electric grid. Utilities would have had to plan for the addition of alternative energy resources like solar panels, energy storage facilities, and electric vehicles when acquiring new infrastructure. Unfortunately this bill failed in the Senate, but I will continue focusing on renewable energy and climate change issues like these in the future.

**HB17-1194 Technical Changes For P-tech Schools** *(Signed into Law)*

This bill will help Pathways In Technology Early College (PTECH) schools by not penalizing school districts in their graduation rate statistics. PTECH students take 5 or 6 years to graduate, but the bill will allow school districts to count them as 4-year graduates.