How You Can Get Involved To Influence Decisions and Legislation

The Colorado Legislature

Why should YOU get involved???

- Legislation may affect your business
- Ability to make informed decisions
- Impact outcomes

What you need to know – the basics

- Session dates and schedule
  - Jan 8, 2014 – May 7, 2014 (120 day legislative session)
- Makeup of Colorado General Assembly
  - 100 members
    - 35 Senators serve up to two 4-year terms
    - 65 Representatives serve up to four 2-year terms
- Overview
  - Single subject requirement for all bills
  - 5 bills per member
- How a bill becomes law
Learn what bills might affect you

- SWANA legislative table
  - Emailed to SWANA members during session

- CAFR legislative page on website

- Search the state legislature website
  - [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us)

Deciphering a bill

**Title of the bill**
A BILL FOR AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF WASTE SERVICES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.

**Bill Summary**
(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at [http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries/](http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries/).

Garbage, trash, and other waste collection services (waste services) can be provided by local governments, private persons, or a combination of the two within the boundaries of a local government. In addition, some cities require residents to pay for municipal waste services. The bill requires local governments to receive voter approval before providing, contracting to provide, or requiring residents of a local government to pay fees for waste services. The ballot is required to contain a description of the service to be provided and the cost of the service and must be submitted at an election at which other matters are being voted upon.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.

Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

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**Legislative Declaration**
1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
2. SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:
3. SECTION 2. 30-15-401 (7.5) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended, and the said 30-15-401 (7.5) is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH, to read:

**Meat of the Bill**

SEC 2. 30-15-401 (7.5) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended, and the said 30-15-401 (7.5) is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH, to read:

9. "30-15-401. General regulations. (7.5) (a) Any requirement that municipal residents use or pay user charges for residential waste services may be affected by utilization of the initiative and referendum power reserved to the municipal electors in section 1 (9) of article V of the Colorado constitution."

15. "(c.5) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION TO THE CONTRARY AND IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER REQUIREMENT PROVIDED BY LAW, THE GOVERNING BODY OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT CHOOSES ON"
Contacting your legislator

- How to find your representative
  - [http://votesmart.org/](http://votesmart.org/)
  - Pink Book

- Methods of communicating
  - Phone, email, USPS, social media, in person
  - Industry receptions, Capitol Days

- Information to include
  - Your name, constituent status
  - Bill number, stance
  - Contact information

Participating in the process

- On the web
  - [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us) to listen or watch proceedings

- In person
  - Attend hearings in House or Senate

- Testifying
  - You can do it!

Further opportunities

- Contact the Governor’s office
  - [http://www.colorado.gov/governor/](http://www.colorado.gov/governor/)

- Citizen initiatives

For more information

- State legislature web page
  - [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us)

- Capitol building
  - 200 W. Colfax Ave., Denver

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