

One week ago, Saturday March 14th, the state legislature went into recess due to the coronavirus threat. They passed [House Joint Resolution 20-1007](#) stating that the legislature will return on March 30th to reevaluate the situation. That was the 67<sup>th</sup> legislative day of the 120-day session.

The House and Senate also passed [House Joint Resolution 20-1006](#) requesting guidance from the State Supreme Court regarding the nature of the 120-day session. The question is, if in a state of emergency, it is required the 120 days be counted consecutively (which would mean an end date of May 6<sup>th</sup>) or if only days on which the Senate or the House of Representatives are convened are counted.

Many of the legislative priorities, including constitutional mandates such as passing an annual budget, await a response from the state's highest court. For now, the fate of the 465 bills (out of 563 introduced) still working their way through the legislative process are in limbo, including the 34 bills your state association is monitoring. CACD is currently tracking the following bills on behalf of the conservation districts: [LINK](#)

All of the bills CACD has been working on have been put on hold by the recess, including the State Budget (originally scheduled to be introduced this coming Monday, March 23rd) and [HB20-1115 Sales Tax Exemption For Farm Fencing Material](#), a bill that CACD introduced this year out of the Delta Conservation District.

Please review the bill tracking sheet and send any comments you have to your CACD Watershed Board Member or CACD Executive Director Bobbi Ketels. We remain ready to re-engage when the legislature reconvenes.

The latest budget forecast is speculating that the state will have little new revenue to spend on this year's budget, fiscal year 2020-21 starting July 1st. We will work diligently to prevent any cuts to existing conservation district budgets. Unfortunately, record low oil prices and the slowing of new oil and gas permits due to SB19-181 will likely lead to a lack of severance funds for Matching Grants and Conservation Techs moving forward. We will continue to work with our partners at Colorado Department of Agriculture to address these needs.

We will continue to pass along more information as it becomes available. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy.