



# DISABILITY LAW COLORADO

Protecting the rights of Coloradans of all ages since 1976

73RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2ND SESSION REVIEW

June 2022



## Preview:

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## INTRODUCTION

During the 2022 Legislative Session at the Colorado General Assembly Disability Law Colorado stepped up to advocate for the rights and welfare of individuals with disabilities\* across Colorado. Leaders from DLC's Access, Education, and Facilities teams came together to analyze every piece of proposed legislation and determine impacts as may have on disabled Coloradans.

DLC staff also worked with stakeholders, interests groups, and legislators to propose amendments and improve introduced legislation.

As a result of Disability Law Colorado's efforts, the Colorado General Assembly was a great success for the disability community.

In addition, the work DLC staff contributed to last year on the investigative report by 5280, "The Dire Consequences of Pleading Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity in Colorado," led to ground breaking legislation on NGRI.

Below is a breakdown of the legislative advocacy effort by DLC this year, some highlights from the staff, and an outline for future advocacy efforts at the State Capitol.



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\*Disability Law Colorado recognizes and respects that some community members prefer people-first language and others prefer identity-first language. We therefore use both throughout this report.



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# By the Numbers

## 657 Bills



Staff at Disability Law Colorado Reviewed all 657 bills introduced by the legislature in 2022. Each bill was analyzed for potential impacts, both positive and negative, on individuals with disabilities.

## 150+ Hours



Disability Law Colorado spent over 150 hours working with stakeholders, interest groups, and legislators to help improve legislation.

## 30+ Pages



Disability Law Colorado prepared over 30 pages of written testimony in support of legislation which betters the lives of disabled Coloradans.

## 6 Signings



Disability Law Colorado was invited to 6 bill signing ceremonies hosted by the Governor's office because of the support they provided on the passage of the legislation.



# Team Highlights



## ACCESS TEAM

HB22-1253: Helps ensure that people with disabilities can request and receive adaptive equipment when renting a vehicle.

HB22-1367: 1) Expands CADA to cover domestic workers; 2) Expands coverage for age discrimination remedies to match what is available under other types of discrimination; and 3) Expands the time to file a discrimination complaint with CCRD from 180 to 300 days, so it matches the EEOC filing deadline.

HB22-1143: Creates a permanent committee to support auxiliary services at state agencies.

## EDUCATION TEAM

HB22-1131: Takes measures to reduce justice-involvement for young children, with focus on prevention and age-appropriate interventions.

HB22-1215: Expands opportunities for high school students to enroll in postsecondary courses.

HB22-1255: Takes measures to improve postsecondary education outcomes for students with a disability.

HB22-1294: Creates additional pathways to provide special education services to children with disabilities in charter schools.

HB22-1349: Improving decision-making to enhance postsecondary student success.

HB22-1376: Creates supportive learning environments for K-12 students.

SB22-127: Increases funding for special education services.



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# Team Highlights

## FACILITIES TEAM

HB22-1061: Improves Colorado's not guilty by reason of insanity, "NGRI", laws to provide higher rates of examination and more funding to examine patients.

HB22-1303: Provides more funds to increase the number of behavioral health beds available to patients.

HB22-1386: Revises and improves Colorado's competency laws.

SB22-196: Provides funding for health support to those in the criminal justice system.

HB22-1256: Makes modifications to civil involuntary commitment statutes for persons with mental health disorders.

SB22-010: Creates pretrial diversion programs that are intended to identify eligible individuals who have behavioral health disorders in order to divert them from the criminal justice system into community treatment programs

HB22-1063: Creates a jail standards commission to standardize the operation of Colorado jails

HB22-1278: Creates a new state entity, the behavioral health administration.





# Looking Forward

## 2023 AND BEYOND

While this last session was filled with some tremendous successes, advocates at Disability Law Colorado know there is still a lot left on the table. DLC is already preparing for the 74th General Assembly, and plans to take an even more active role in advancing legislation and creating change.

The education team is partnering with several other advocacy organizations and looking to make substantial changes to protect students from expulsions and certain types of criminal charges for behavior that is a manifestation of their disability.

The access team is working to update Colorado's inspection and building standards to meet the modern age of construction and disability.

The facilities team is working on major overhauls of the competency laws which better reflect our understanding of justice and competency in the 21st century.

All of the teams look forward to expanding Disability Law's legislative advocacy in the 74th General Assembly and working with our community partners and individuals with disabilities to bring new and diverse voices to the table.



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