Pure gold...

Morning guys. I sent a BCC email to every single house member and senator last night about the bill. I am getting tons of responses but wanted to share this one in particular by a senator who was very helpful. He mapped out exactly how we can fight this. Let's go to work!

James,

1) Follow the bill. By that, I mean that you and anyone else who opposes the bill should direct your advocacy to those legislators who can and will vote on the bill at the current stage of the process. At present, the eleven members of the House Business Committee are the only members of the Colorado General Assembly who are able to vote on that bill.

None of the other 89 members can vote on that bill unless there were to be an illness or some other excused absence on the day of the bill hearing, which could mean that a temporary replacement could be made.

The eleven members of the House Business Committee are listed here:

[http://leg.colorado.gov/…/business-aff…/2020-regular-session](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fleg.colorado.gov%2Fcommittees%2Fbusiness-affairs-labor%2F2020-regular-session%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR06ExW86SstoSTxXaOLjW8xA3l1lY7MlyqJi4cnpU2INORL5gYTgj1kT1c&h=AT13AB4v24oUZuKit0m984xJ2FWpjZl0ZYwINE-DWqTMlnNPTdYE0R9Zovl-OCWyHwo5lQkmfvVu1Tx5qNkc4a-R53MBVJgQGkmjYdtwvIHMPEb9fMlJ-j3VLkH4q__BRHYrHg2TjeBxJOgaCvKVphLc3BP4X7s)

2) In order to stop (“kill”) the bill, at least a simple majority of a committee or a chamber must support such a motion. In Colorado, there is no “pocket veto.” No one legislator has the authority to ’pull’ a bill once it has been introduced.

In this case, at least six of the eleven members of the House Business Committee would need to oppose the bill by voting against it. Otherwise, that bill would move to the next state of the legislative process.

3) You can follow the progress of the bill here:

[http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb20-1141](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fleg.colorado.gov%2Fbills%2Fhb20-1141%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1WhRbr7vKWuX3uBmtwvm9HfM2UIea-xfAWOuAEbdaos8pfNg5Z4qQT0Xw&h=AT2EJJa7YrnexjgKZj35xlA0FO7bExJyEqnQXbgsYeFib465g0DijrbAcF8-5GAaD6oeEdEXcr-KVSDNLClMkYSUEwmEedPs4lvy5O5hE14MxGvo5k_pn5GOnQqOSpZTy6F6CV3wkCeV5HvRqDOt8qGCiZOAKMQ)

While on that page scroll/click on “Memu” and then select “Bill History” to see where the bill is currently assigned/headed. In this case, the might \*MAY\* need to go to House Finance and or House Appropriations before it could head to the floor of the House for Second Reading in that chamber. Or, maybe not.

4) In each committee or on the floor, the bill MUST receive at least simple majority support to advance or to fail. Thus, it is CRITICAL that you and other opponents ASK each legislator who can/will vote on the bill at the next stage of the process “How will you vote?” Then, count your votes. In this case, you need six votes in opposition to the bill from the eleven members of the House Business Committee. Otherwise, the bill will move forward.

5) The ratio on the House Business Committee is seven Democrats and four Republicans. You need six votes to “kill” the bill in that committee.

The ratio on the House floor is 41 Democrats and 24 Republicans. You would need 33 votes to “kill” any bill on the House floor.

6) When asking a legislator “How will you vote?”, thank those who share your position. If a given legislator is undecided on the bill, THEN educate him/her on your position on the bill. If a legislator holds the opposite position (supports the bill), then ask, “Why?”

7) Keep a list of how each member will vote, which would allow you to count your votes. You need six votes right now.

8) DON’T limit or focus your advocacy on the two legislators (1 Representative and 1 Senator) who happen to represent you based on coincidental geography (District lines). In this case, I am confident that all six state legislators from Douglas County would vote NO! on HB20-1141. You’re welcome to verify that by asking each of those six, including me.

The point is that if you focus only on two or all six legislators here in Douglas County then you cannot stop the bill. Why? Because we already agree with you. But, we are in the minority, which means that mathematically, you’ll cannot achieve at least a simple majority of votes in any committee or either chamber. Thus, you MUST convince Democrats who are in the Majority in both chambers to also oppose the bill. Otherwise, it will advance and eventually pass.

9) None of the 35 Senators can or will vote on the bill unless it passes through the House. If the bill comes to the Senate, then it MUST be heard by at least one Committee of Reference in the Senate. In this case, that would probably be the Senate Business Committee where you would need at least three of the five members to oppose the bill. That would be the most likely point in the process for this bill to fail.

10) If the bill were to pass through Senate committee(s) and then come to the Senate floor, then I would vote NO! But, that wouldn’t occur until weeks or even months from now. Since I’m the Senate Minority Leader, I don’t serve on any Committee of Reference. Thus, my vote cannot influence a bill unless/until it gets to the floor for Second and Third Reading.

Hope this helps.

Senator

PS: Please excuse any typos as I tap-typed this message on my cell phone.

The House Committee on Business Affairs & Labor considers matters concerning the regulation of professions and occupations, property and casualty insurance, unemployment insurance, health insurance, workers' compensation insurance, economic development, banks and financial institutions, real estate,...