

2018 State Legislative Review

May 09, 2018



Session Overview

A Tense 2018 Was Punctuated by a Bipartisan Finish

The 2018 Legislative session was politically charged, resulting from split party control of the legislative chambers and a flurry of partisan messaging bills in anticipation of the 2018 elections. The atmosphere at the Capitol was made even more tense by the allegations of sexual harassment filed against several lawmakers, including Rep. Steve Lebsock who was expelled from office by a vote of the House in March. As is the case most years, the bulk of legislative activity did not occur until after the March revenue forecasts gave a clearer picture of the State Budget. The positive forecast drove new spending across the board, including bipartisan agreements to shore up PERA and new highway funding. With agreements on the major funding issues settled, the Session wound down with both sides looking ahead to November.

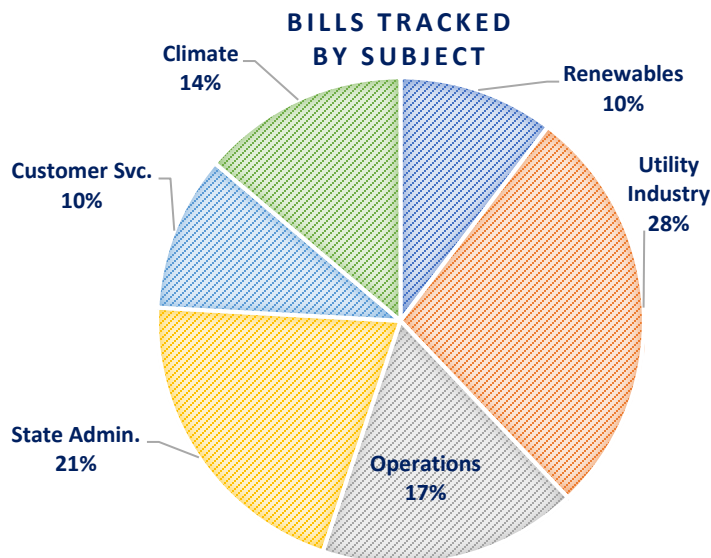
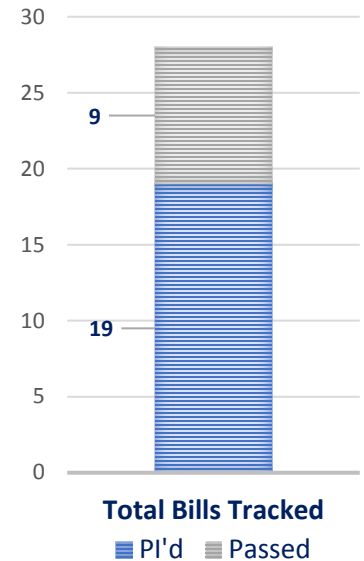


Legislative Scorecard & Metrics

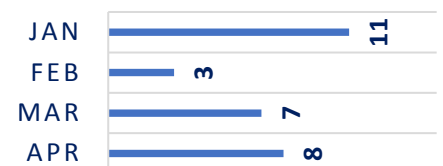
CAMU Saw a Spike of Activity (and Success) in Waning Days

CAMU tracked 29 bills this session. We took positions on 4 bills and successfully obtained 4 amendments. With the sole exception of SB18-064, the work reflected on our scorecard was accomplished in the final 4 weeks of the 120 Session!

Bill	Position	Result
HB18-1345 - Electric Transmission ROFR	Support	Failed
HB18-1394 - Update the Disaster Emergency Act	Support	Passed
SB18-064 - Require 100% Renewable Energy	Oppose	Failed
SB18-167 - Enforce 811 Locate Requirements	Neutral	Passed
Bill	Action	Result
SB18-064 - Require 100% Renewable Energy	Amend	Accepted
SB18-167 - Enforce 811 Locate Requirements	Amend	Accepted
SB18-245 - Allow TENORM Rules	Amend	Accepted
SB18-246 - RES Repeal Bill	Amend	Accepted



BILLS INTRODUCED BY MONTH





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Key Legislation

Fight Over 811 Dominates CAMU Agenda

Though CAMU's 2018 legislative work was primarily dominated by our efforts on SB18-167, CAMU fought to protect municipal utility interests on several other key pieces of legislation this session.

Key Legislation Passed:

SB18-167 Enforce 811 Locate Requirements (CAMU Neutral) — The passage of this bill is no small feat as various attempts at altering Colorado's "call before you dig" laws have been attempted over the decades. CAMU worked hard to inject our voice into the conversations on this bill and CAMU won the following provisions in the final bill:

- Exemption of municipalities and power authorities from Safety Commission Enforcement.
- The protection of existing municipal damage prevention programs.
- A recognition of the preeminence of municipal codes (street cut permits).
- Hold harmless language for service lateral locates.

HB18-1394 Update the Disaster Emergency Act (CAMU Support)— This bill codifies the existing Colorado Resiliency Office which was established by the Governor following the 2013 floods. The primary role of this office is to coordinate with local governments in the disbursement of FEMA funds. Working with Larimer County and Colorado Springs Utilities, CAMU obtained a Senate majority sponsor for the bill and ensured its successful passage with Senate leadership.

Key Legislation Defeated:

SB18-064 Require 100% Renewable Energy (CAMU Oppose)— CAMU opposed this messaging bill on the grounds that it would invalidate our WAPA hydro and that it exceeded the General Assembly's authority by seeking to legislate net metering rates on municipal utilities. The sponsor agreed to CAMU amendments on the net metering pieced and offered to fix the hydro issue if the bill were to pass. However, the bill was defeated in the Senate Agriculture Committee.

SB18-246 RPS Repeal Bill (CAMU Amend)—This messaging bill was brought to repeal the RPS requirements placed on TriState and the Coops in 2013. However, the bill also included language to strike pyrolysis as a qualifying renewable resource and sought to delete the municipal DG exemption. CAMU worked with the Sponsor to agree to remove this language. In response to

Other Important Issues CAMU Tracked:

HB18-1271 IOU Economic Development Rates (CAMU Monitor)—This legislation was brought by Xcel Energy to enable them to offer lower rates for commercial and industrial users who locate or expand their operations in Colorado and increase demand by at least 3 megawatts. The bill met with minimal opposition and was passed by the Senate on May 03.

HB18-1428 Authorize Community Collaboration Contracts (CAMU Monitor)—This legislation was brought by Xcel Energy to enable them to offer 100% renewable energy services to any community they serve that requests such service. This bill was seen as preemptive measure against the community choice aggregation model. Ultimately, the bill was defeated in Senate after intense lobbying from Boulder activists.