



RMFU 2020 Policy can be found:

[rmfu.org/what-we-do/legislation/rmfu-policy/](https://rmfu.org/what-we-do/legislation/rmfu-policy/)



## **HB20-1117: Misbranding Nonmeat & Imported & Artificial Meat**

Current law prohibits selling meat or meat products that are imported without the label indicating the fact of importation. The bill expands this to cover any meat derived from animals that were not born, raised, and harvested exclusively in the United States. The bill provides that food is misbranded as “meat” or a cut of meat if it does not come from animals and that lab-grown meat is misbranded as “meat” or a cut of meat unless labeled as “lab-grown” or “artificially cultured.”

*RMFU National Policy, Pages 14-15 – ‘We support requiring any laboratory-produced product to be labeled as laboratory or industrially produced. We support meat defined as a product derived from the tissue or flesh of animals that have been harvested in the traditional manner. We oppose labeling alternative protein sources as meat.’*



## **SB20-002: Rural Economic Development Initiative Grant Program**

The bill creates the rural economic development initiative (REDI) grant program in the department of local affairs (department) to provide grants for projects that create new jobs through a new employer or the expansion of an existing employer and for projects that create diversity and resiliency in the local economies of rural communities. The department is required to administer the REDI grant program in collaboration with the Colorado office of economic development.

Entities eligible to receive REDI grant program money include local governments and organizations or individuals working in partnership with a local government, where the local government serves as the grant administrator, including intergovernmental agencies, councils of government, housing authorities, beginning farmers, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, nonprofit economic development organizations, and private employers.

The bill specifies criteria that the department is required to consider when evaluating grant applications and requires the department to prioritize applications that would create new jobs. The bill specifies the types of projects for which REDI grants may be awarded to eligible recipients and requires grant recipients to provide matching funds.

If the department determines that a rural community needs resources or assistance because it has been impacted by a significant economic event or an anticipated event that has been announced, the department may use all or a portion of the money appropriated for the purposes of the REDI grant program for the purposes of the “Rural Economic Advancement of Colorado Towns (REACT) Act”.

The executive director of the department is required to adopt policies and procedures for the administration of the REDI grant program and is also required to produce a report summarizing the use of all money that was awarded as grants from the REDI grant program in the preceding fiscal year.

*RMFU Policy, Pages 70-71 – ‘We support state economic development strategies that support all regions within Colorado,’ & ‘We support an infrastructure that promotes stable economic systems that preserve rural character.’*



## SB20-038: Statewide Biodiesel Blend Requirement Diesel Fuel Sales

**How:** The bill requires that all diesel fuel sold or offered for sale in Colorado between June 1 and September 15 of each year, commencing June 1, 2021, be blended with and contain at least 5% biodiesel and that all diesel fuel sold or offered for sale in Colorado between June 1 and September 15 of each year, commencing June 1, 2023, be blended with and contain at least 10% biodiesel.

The air quality control commission, in consultation with the director of the division of oil and public safety in the department of labor and employment, shall promulgate rules regarding the blending standard, including rules to establish a waiver process and to require labeling of biodiesel-blended fuel to reflect the percentage of biodiesel included in the blended fuel.

*RMFU Colorado Policy, Page 68 – ‘We support the further development and distribution of E-85 fuel and biodiesel, including long term financial support to build the infrastructure bio-fuel firms say is necessary to compete in the marketplace.’*



## SB20-048: Study Strengthening Water Anti-Speculation Law

Current law specifies that an appropriation of water cannot be based on speculation, as evidenced by either of the following:

- The applicant does not have either a legally vested interest or a reasonable expectation of procuring such an interest in the lands or facilities to be served by the appropriation, unless the appropriator is a governmental agency or an agent in fact for the persons proposed to be benefited by the appropriation; or
- The applicant does not have a specific plan and intent to divert, store, or otherwise capture, possess, and control a specific quantity of water for specific beneficial uses.

The bill requires the executive director of the department of natural resources to convene a work group to explore ways to strengthen current anti-speculation law and to report to the water resources review committee by August 15, 2021, regarding any recommended changes.



## SB20-054: Rural Development Grant Program Creation

**How:** The bill creates the rural development grant program to be administered by the Colorado office of economic development. The grants are to be awarded to early stage rural businesses that are primary employers in a rural area with the potential to export goods or services outside of the rural area or for the programmatic expenses of economic development organizations that help promote early stage rural businesses. Early stage rural businesses must be at the seed stage of capital financing, have raised less than \$500,000 of third-party capital, and must be able to provide nonstate matching funding equal to at least 1/3 of the grant award. Grants to the early stage rural businesses may be used for developing prototypes, proof of business concepts, or proof of business models. The grants are funded from the general fund and are limited to no more than \$150,000 per early stage rural business per year.

*RMFU Policy, Pages 70-71 – ‘We support state economic development strategies that support all regions within Colorado,’ & ‘We support an infrastructure that promotes stable economic systems that preserve rural character.’*



## SB20-055: Incentivize Development Recycling End Markets

**Section 1** of the bill directs the pollution prevention advisory board within the department of public health and environment to recommend to the department a structure and governing guidance for a recycling market development center to support the development of end-market businesses within the state. Section 1 also directs the department to conduct a literature review of what industry and other states are doing around the country regarding producer responsibility and to create policy and legislative recommendations regarding the feasibility of requiring producers to design, manage, and finance programs for end-of-life management of their products and packaging as a condition of sale.

**Sections 3, 4, and 5** allow the board to use the recycling resources economic opportunity fund and the front range waste diversion cash fund to reimburse eligible recycling businesses for locally assessed personal property taxes paid in the current tax year in this state on personal property.

**Section 2** directs the board to establish a formula that it would use in awarding personal property tax reimbursements.

**Section 6** requires the department, on and after October 1, 2020, to administer a statewide campaign to educate Colorado residents concerning recycling. The department shall ensure the campaign includes:

- Communications delivered via social media;
- Television and radio public service announcements; and
- The placement of written materials in public locations, such as community centers, recreation centers, and shopping centers.

In administering the campaign, the department shall consult with municipal governments, county governments, and private agencies that operate recycling programs. The department may contract with one or more public or private entities for the preparation of materials to be used in the campaign. The requirement is repealed, effective September 1, 2021.

*RMFU Colorado Policy, Pages 64-65 – ‘We encourage the promotion of recycling and on-farm composting. We encourage the development of regional recycling centers throughout the state. We encourage statewide initiatives to provide more recycling opportunities, including commercial compost operations.’*



## BUDGET ITEM: Colorado Soil Health Program Funding

This request of \$166,491 includes 1.0 FTE and \$50,000 to create a new, voluntary, incentive-based Soil Health Program. This program would provide grant funding to encourage farmers and ranchers to adopt voluntary practices to improve the health of their soil, with goals to sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve water and energy resources, increase agricultural productivity, and promote agriculture in Colorado.

*RMFU Colorado Policy states, “We encourage programs that support soil health research, education, and implementation. We support soil health practices that regenerate our agricultural lands, enhance water holding capacity, increase resilience to extreme weather events, improve farm and ranch profitability, and increase watershed function.”*



## BUDGET ITEM: More Funding for the Food Pantry Assistant Grant

The Food Pantry Assistance Grant provides funds to increase access to healthy foods for all Coloradans and purchase of Colorado Proud products. Because of the benefits of healthy food and income for local producers, funding dedicated to this program is a win-win for farmers, ranchers, and those in need of food assistance.

*RMFU Colorado Policy states, “We support the purchase of locally grown and raised food by food pantries and the funding of technical assistance to support those purchases.”*



## BUDGET ITEM: \$10 Million Toward the Colorado Water Plan

With the help of hundreds of stakeholders and over 30,000 comments from interested persons across the state, the CWCB delivered the final Colorado's Water Plan to the CWCB Board and Colorado Governor's Office on November 19, 2015. With the plan finalized, the Colorado water community has shifted to implementation of the measurable objectives and critical actions set forth in the plan to ensure that Colorado can meet its future water needs and continues to be a thriving state to work, play, and live.

*RMFU Colorado Policy states, "We support the funding and implementation of the Colorado Water Plan." The plan itself is projected to cost \$300 million over 30 years, and while \$10 million may not seem like much, it will address infrastructure improvements to protect our state's water future and our rural communities.*



## SB20-121: Manage Gray Wolves In Colorado

The bill authorizes the management and, if necessary, the reintroduction of the gray wolf in Colorado pursuant to a plan adopted by the parks and wildlife commission (commission). The reintroduction is to begin by December 31, 2025, but the reintroduction is:

- Postponed until a new source of revenue becomes available to pay for damages caused by gray wolves; and
- Canceled if the gray wolf already has a self-sustaining population in Colorado.

The commission is directed to adopt and periodically update a plan to reintroduce, recover, and manage gray wolves. The plan must:

- Use the best scientific data available;
- Be developed after conducting a public process to solicit and consider public comments; and
- Not impose any land-, water-, or resource-use restrictions on private landowners.

Commercial livestock owners will be entitled to the payment of damages caused by gray wolves. The commission shall authorize and finance programs to educate livestock owners regarding the avoidance and mitigation of damages potentially caused by gray wolves.

- In consultation with the department of agriculture, the commission and division of parks and wildlife shall convene a study group to consider:
- How to verify and estimate damages caused by gray wolves, specifically considering the maintenance of baseline production records for a period before gray wolf reintroduction and the use of brand inspectors to verify and estimate the damages; and
- How to finance the payment of damages caused by gray wolves, including specifically one or more new sources of revenue to pay the damages.

The commission shall submit a report to the general assembly concerning the results of the study group process by January 1, 2022.

*RMFU Colorado Policy, Page 71: We oppose the introduction or relocation of endangered species or predatory animals onto lands where agricultural operations, wildlife, domestic animals or humans might be adversely affected. This includes but is not limited to wolves and grizzly bears.*



SUPPORT



PRIORITY



MONITOR



OPPOSE

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## HB20-1018: Adopt Renewable Natural Gas Standard

**How:** The bill requires the public utilities commission to adopt by rule, no later than July 31, 2021, renewable natural gas programs for large natural gas utilities (those that have at least 200,000 customer accounts in Colorado) and small natural gas utilities (those that have fewer than 200,000 customer accounts in Colorado). The rules must include reporting requirements and a process for natural gas utilities to fully recover prudently incurred costs associated with the large and small renewable natural gas programs.

Renewable natural gas is defined to mean any of the following products processed to meet pipeline quality standards or transportation fuel-grade requirements:

- Biogas that is blended with, or substituted for, geologic natural gas;
- Hydrogen gas derived from renewable energy sources; or
- Methane gas derived from any combination of biogas; hydrogen gas or carbon oxides derived from renewable energy sources; waste carbon dioxide; coalbed methane resulting from human activity; naturally occurring coalbed deposits; a municipal solid waste landfill; waste tire or municipal solid waste pyrolysis; or biogas recovery from manure management systems and anaerobic digesters.

If a large natural gas utility's total incremental annual cost to meet the targets of the large renewable natural gas program exceeds 5% of the large natural gas utility's total revenue requirement for a particular year, the large natural gas utility shall not make additional qualified investments under the large renewable natural gas program for that year without approval from the commission.

The bill establishes the following portfolio targets for the percentage of gas purchased by large natural gas utilities that is renewable natural gas:

- By January 1, 2025, at least 5% must be renewable natural gas;
- By January 1, 2030, at least 10% must be renewable natural gas; and
- On and after January 1, 2035, at least 15% must be renewable natural gas.

Small natural gas utilities may opt-in to the small renewable natural gas program as established by the commission by rule. The rule must include a rate cap limiting the small natural gas utility's costs of procuring renewable natural gas from third parties and qualified investments in renewable natural gas infrastructure.



## HB20-1004: Assistance Landowner Wildfire Mitigation

**How:** The bill establishes the Wildfire Mitigation Resources and Best Practices Grant program (grant program) within the division of local government in the department of local affairs. Grant recipients use grant money to conduct outreach among landowners to inform them of resources available for wildfire mitigation and best practices for wildfire mitigation. The grant program only awards grants to applicants conducting outreach to landowners in high wildfire hazard areas and prioritizes applications based on the potential impact of the applicant's proposed outreach. The bill also extends the increased wildfire mitigation income tax deduction that allows a landowner to claim 100%, rather than 50%, of the costs they incur in performing wildfire mitigation measures.



## HB20-1037: Augmentation of Instream Flows

**How:** The bill authorizes the Colorado water conservation board to augment stream flows to preserve or improve the natural environment to a reasonable degree by use of an acquired water right that has been previously quantified and changed to include augmentation use, without a further change of the water right being required.



## HB20-1047: Develop A Statewide Organics Management Plan

**How:** The bill tasks the executive director of the department of public health and environment - or the executive director's designee and the commissioner of agriculture or the commissioner's designee with developing an organics management plan on or before September 1, 2022. The department of public health and environment may incorporate the plan into the department's existing work regarding organics management if its existing work meets the standards established for the Organics Management Plan.

In developing the plan, the executive director and the commissioner are required to study and make recommendations regarding organic waste management practices to encourage compost use on soil to promote carbon storage.

The executive director and the commissioner must also complete 2 statewide surveys as part of the plan, with one survey examining end uses for the major categories of organic waste feedstock generated within the state and the other survey examining existing organic waste generation facilities and processing capacity.

On or before February 1, 2023, the executive director, in collaboration with the commissioner, shall submit a report summarizing the plan to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over energy or agricultural matters.



## HB20-1069: Add Water Well Inspectors Identify High-Risk Wells

**How:** The bill requires the state engineer to employ a minimum of 4 water well inspectors in the state's water well inspection program. The bill requires the state board of water well construction and pump installation contractors, on or before November 1, 2020, to promulgate rules for identifying high-risk water wells that should be prioritized for inspection. Thereafter, the state engineer shall use the rules to identify high-risk water wells and shall prioritize the inspection of high-risk water wells. The bill clarifies that money in the well inspection cash fund shall be appropriated to and expended by the state engineer only for the well inspection program.



## HB20-1084: Requirements for Dog & Cat Breeders & Sellers

**How:** The bill creates the "Humane Pet Act", which establishes standards for the care and treatment of dogs and cats by dog breeders and cat breeders; prohibits the sale of a dog or cat in a public place by any person; and prohibits the sale of dogs and cats by pet stores.

*RMFU Colorado Policy, Page 74 – 'We oppose animal shelters, rescues, and affiliated organizations that are involved in "Retail Rescue".'*



## HB20-1086: Insurance Coverage Mental Health Wellness Exam

The bill adds a requirement, as part of mandatory health insurance coverage of preventive health care services, that health plans cover an annual mental health wellness examination of up to 60 minutes that is performed by a qualified mental health care provider. The coverage must:

- Be comparable to the coverage of a physical examination;
- Comply with the requirements of federal mental health parity laws; and
- Not require any deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance for the mental health wellness examination.



## HB20-1093: County Authority License & Regulate Business

The bill grants a board of county commissioners the authority to license and regulate any business located or business activity occurring within the county, including short-term lodging rentals or advertising for such rentals, and to fix the fees, terms, and manner for issuing and revoking licenses issued therefor.



## HB20-1095: Local Governments Water Elements in Master Plans

**How:** The bill authorizes a local government master plan to include goals specified in the state water plan and to include policies that condition development approvals on implementation of those goals.



## HB20-1172: No Abandonment of Water Rights for Efficiencies

Current law provides that a period of nonuse of a portion of a water right is tolled, and no intent to discontinue permanent use is found for purposes of determining an abandonment of a water right, for the duration that the nonuse of the water right by its owner is a result of any of certain conditions. The bill adds a condition that applies when the nonuse of a portion of a water right is a result of the implementation of efficiency improvement projects or methods that result in a reduction of the amount of water diverted for the decreed beneficial use. In such case:

- For the period of nonuse to be tolled, the owner of the water right must submit written notice of the efficiency improvement project or method to the division engineer, on a form prescribed by the division engineer, within one year of the date that the efficiency improvement project or method is first implemented; and
- The nonuse of the portion of the water right is tolled for a maximum of 20 years.



## HB20-1195: Consumer Digital Repair Bill of Rights

Usually, an owner of digital electronic equipment (equipment), such as cell phones and tablets, must seek diagnostic, maintenance, or repair services of the equipment from the original equipment manufacturer (manufacturer) or an authorized repair provider affiliated with the manufacturer.

The bill requires a manufacturer to provide parts, embedded software, tools, or documentation, such as diagnostic, maintenance, or repair manuals, diagrams, or similar information, to independent repair providers and owners of the manufacturer's equipment to allow an independent repair provider or owner to conduct diagnostic, maintenance, or repair services. A manufacturer's failure to comply with the requirement is an unfair or deceptive trade practice. Manufacturers need not divulge any trade secrets to independent repair providers and owners.

Any contractual provision or other arrangement that a manufacturer enters into that would remove or limit the manufacturer's obligation to provide these resources to independent repair providers and owners is void and unenforceable.

**RMFU Policy states: "We support Fair Repair and Right to Repair legislation that would allow farmers and independent mechanics access to diagnostic software, information, and other tools in order to repair modern equipment."**



## SB20-012: Transmit Renewable Energy Conservation Easements

**How:** A conservation easement is an agreement in which a property owner agrees to limit the use of his or her land in perpetuity in order to protect one or more specified conservation purposes. The bill specifically authorizes conservation easements to permit electric transmission lines that transmit renewable energy across the land subject to the easement if it is appropriate and consistent with the conservation purposes of the conservation easement.



## HB20-008: Enhance Penalties Water Quality Criminal Violations

**How:** Current law specifies that a person who commits criminal pollution of state waters that is committed:

- With criminal negligence or recklessly is subject to a maximum daily fine of \$12,500; and
- Knowingly or intentionally is subject to a maximum daily fine of \$25,000. Section 1 of the bill makes a:
- Criminally negligent or reckless violation a misdemeanor and increases the penalty to \$25,000, imprisonment of up to one year, or both; and
- Knowing or intentional violation a class 5 felony and increases the penalty to \$50,000, imprisonment of up to 3 years, or both.

Current law specifies that a person who knowingly makes any false representation in a required record or who knowingly renders inaccurate any required water quality monitoring device or method is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000, imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months, or both. Section 2 makes these violations a class 5 felony and specifies that if 2 separate offenses occur in 2 separate occurrences during a period of 2 years, the maximum fine and imprisonment for the second offense are double the default amounts.



## SB20-090: Limit Liability for Food Donations to Nonprofits

**How:** Current law provides limited immunity from civil and criminal liability to retail food establishments, nonprofit organizations, and other entities that donate items of food to nonprofit organizations for use or distribution in providing assistance to needy or poor persons. The bill extends the same immunity to correctional facilities.

The bill encourages retail food establishments and correctional facilities to donate apparently wholesome food to local nonprofit organizations for distribution to needy or poor individuals.



## SB20-101: Investigation Process for Pesticide Applicators

**How:** Current law requires certain commercial pesticide applicators to be licensed or registered. The bill requires the commissioner of agriculture to notify such a regulated person within 24 hours after the commissioner or department of agriculture receives a complaint about the person. The notice must include the alleged facts and any statute or rule the person is alleged to have violated. If the notice is not provided:

- The commissioner is prohibited from suspending or revoking the person's license or registration, or imposing civil penalties; and
- The person is immune from a criminal prosecution based on the facts alleged in the complaint.

The bill also requires the following proceedings to be brought within one year after the occurrence of the facts upon which they are based:

- A proceeding to discipline a licensee or registrant;
- A proceeding to impose civil penalties, not including failing to obtain the required license or registration; or
- A criminal prosecution, not including failing to obtain the required license or registration.
- The bill creates a sales tax exemption for fencing material used in a farm operation.



## SB20-104: Powers of Bureau of Animal Protection Agents

The bill grants additional duties and powers to bureau of animal protection agents (agent), including the authority to conduct investigations; to take possession of and impound any animal that the agent has probable cause to believe is a victim of cruelty to animals; and to take possession of and impound a dog if the agent has probable cause to believe the dog is a dangerous dog.





## SB20-142: Pet Animal Facility Licensing

The bill amends the "Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act" (Act) by:

- Removing language exempting from the Act a person who boards no more than 3 pet animals at one time;
- Exempting from the Act any pet animal rescue that qualifies as tax exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the federal "Internal Revenue Code of 1986";
- Decreasing the maximum licensing fee amount that the commissioner of agriculture may charge a pet animal facility and establishing independent contractor pet groomer licensing fees in statute; and
- Removing language that prohibits a person from importing or causing to be imported any pet animal for the purpose of sale, resale, trade, or barter by a pet animal facility operator unless the person is licensed.

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## Helpful Websites

**Find My Legislators:** <https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator>

**Find A Bill:** <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills>

**Committees:** <https://leg.colorado.gov/content/committees>

**Session Schedule:** <https://leg.colorado.gov/session-schedule>

**Budget Overview:** <https://leg.colorado.gov/content/budget>

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