

# END-OF-SESSION REPORT

## 2018 Colorado Legislature

Produced by Colorado Technology Association

Monitored 38 bills  
Took positions on 9 bills  
Testified in front of the Legislature on 6 bills

### POLICY COUNCIL

**Roberta Robinette**, President, AT&T Colorado (*Council Chair*)

**Albert Kendrick**, CIO, FirstBank

**Bill Mueldener**, Principal & Denver Office Managing Partner & National Director of State & Local Tax, Moss Adams

**Jeff Bartholomew**, Attorney, Robinson Waters & O'Dorizio P.C.

**Mark Soltes**, AVP of Public Policy and Government Affairs - CO, CenturyLink

**Michael Nelson**, VP of Government Affairs, Comcast

### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Increase computer science education quality and opportunity
- Continue pushing to increase investment in tech apprenticeships and internships
  - Pursue full opportunity for market-based approach for taxes in Colorado
  - Continue investment in emerging tech resources
- Expand affordable and reliable broadband to schools and communities through public-private partnerships

## WORK WE CONTINUED FROM PAST SESSIONS

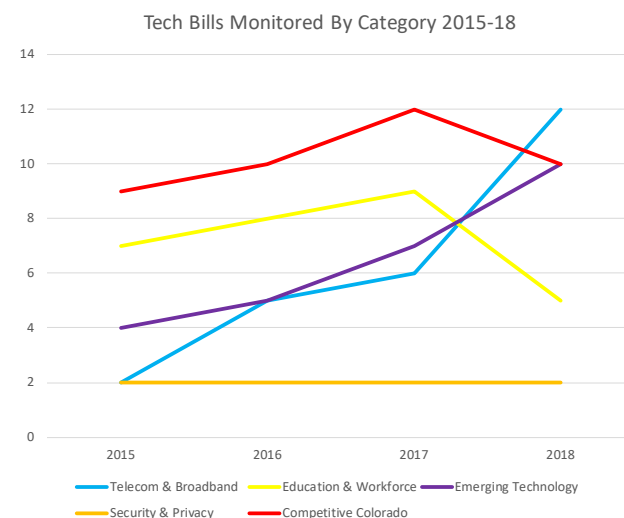
In 2017, CTA supported SB17-299, which changed the taxation of certain data centers in the state to a fairer market-based approach that allows Colorado to continue to attract, grow and retain technology industries that provide valuable state-wide economic benefits over the long term. This session, we continued that effort through support of HB18-1185 to bring that market-based approach to the rest of industry in the state.

In 2017, CTA supported the creation of the Colorado Computer Science Education Grants for Teachers Program to support continuing education for teachers who instruct computer science. This session, we supported increasing funding to this program by \$500,000.

In 2016, CTA supported HB16-1289, which establishes a program to allow school districts to receive a bonus for each high school student who earns an industry certification tied to an in-demand job, finishes a rigorous workplace training program tied to key industry needs or successfully completes an AP computer science course. This session, we supported extending this program with additional measures to ensure maximum equity among schools.

In 2016, CTA supported HB16-1198, which required the Colorado Department of Education to develop voluntary academic standards for computer science for secondary students. Over the past year, we have engaged with the creation of these standards through membership on the standards committee. In April, the Colorado Board of Education approved the standards put forth by the working committee.

In 2013, CTA supported HB13-1193 to create the Advanced Industry Export Accelerator Program that accelerated the ability of high-tech Colorado companies to export their products by providing small grants, as well as training and consultation services, to help them springboard into the global marketplace. This session, we worked to retain that program by securing its extension.



## OUR POSITIONS ON KEY BILLS

### SUPPORTED

#### Extend Advanced Industry Export Acceleration Program (HB18-1135) - Sent to the Governor

Exporting grows business and Colorado tech companies have utilized the Office of Economic Development and International Trade's Advanced Industry Export Program to expand into new markets and handle the challenges involved. HB 1135 continues access to this program through 2025 for Colorado businesses.

#### Market Sourcing for Business Income Tax Apportionment (HB18-1185) - Sent to the Governor

Colorado has become a tech hub between the coasts, and to ensure our state continues toward this, we must maintain a competitive and business-friendly environment. We continue to move toward a more service-based economy and HB 1185 replaces the current taxation method to a market-based sourcing system. This provides a more equitable method for applying taxes by creating a level playing field for Colorado businesses when competing with other states that have market-based sourcing systems.

#### Bitcoin Dealers Licensed as Money Transmitters (HB18-1220) - Postponed Indefinitely (The governor may convene a stakeholder group to study the issue in depth over the interim)

Cryptocurrency applications of blockchain technology are exploding in use. In order to make Colorado a friendly state for companies in this space, HB 1220 sought to create a welcoming regulatory environment by defining terms related to cryptocurrency exchanges and excluding cryptocurrency activity from the definition of an investment contract.

#### Career Development Success Program Expansion (HB18-1266) - Sent to the Governor

One of the key components to students succeeding and learning the critical skills needed in the 21st Century is providing the right incentives to encourage schools to teach those skills. HB 1266 extends the Career Development Success Program which provides a distribution of up to \$1,000 to school districts and charter schools for each high school student who successfully completes an identified industry-certificate, internship, or pre-apprenticeship program or computer science advanced placement course.

#### Cyber Coding Cryptology for State Records (SB18-086) - Sent to the Governor

Blockchain technology is revolutionizing the world of security and is doing so at a fast-moving pace. SB 86 keeps the state of Colorado up to speed with industry by allowing the state to consider utilizing such technologies to secure data across its agencies.

#### Authorize Audio-Video Communication Notarial Acts (SB18-109) - Postponed Indefinitely

Technology moves fast, and with that comes the innovation of existing practices for ease and simplicity. SB 109 allows the field of notarization to continue its technological evolution and permits notaries public to notarize documents electronically and remotely while establishing security and retention standards.

#### Marketplace Contractor Workers' Compensation Unemployment (SB18-171) - Postponed Indefinitely (Legislative leadership has expressed interest in a larger stakeholder conversation around the issue)

A growing section of the workforce is made up of marketplace contractors working through marketplace platforms. This gig economy is driving innovation and allowing participants to benefit from their skillsets more than ever. SB 171 maintains the momentum of this innovation and keeps allowing the gig economy to thrive and evolve by establishing a test for determining whether a marketplace contractor is considered an employee under the Workers' Compensation Act of Colorado and whether services provided by a marketplace contractor are considered employment under the Colorado Employment Security Act.

## OPPOSED

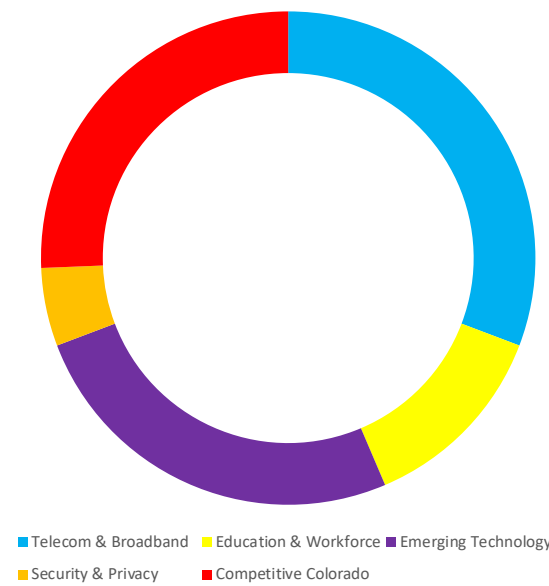
### Network-Level Distracted Driving Control Technology (HB18-1272) - Postponed Indefinitely

As we have seen across countless industries and issues, technology can be utilized in amazing ways. House Bill 1272 would have sought to implement new and innovative technology to curb distracted driving. However, as the bill was written, it put a mandate on certain businesses to provide a specific technology to their customers without those businesses having any input.

### Open Internet Customer Protections in Colorado (HB18-1312) - Postponed Indefinitely

CTA strongly supports an open Internet, working on behalf of the state's tech companies from emerging to enterprise. We advocate for moderate and uniform regulation that keeps pace with innovation and protects consumers. Today, technology does not simply stop at state border lines, and House Bill 1312 would have created overly burdensome regulations for companies that employ technology for their business functions across multiple states. CTA is very aware of the concerns that have been expressed on the topic of net neutrality, and we believe the best approach is to find a federal solution that promotes innovation and economic growth and ensures uniformity and clarity for businesses across the country.

2018 Tech Bills Monitored By Category



## TECH BILLS WE MONITORED, BY CATEGORY

Telecom & Broadband: 12

Competitive Colorado: 10

Emerging Technology: 10

Education & Workforce: 5

Security & Privacy: 2

## EVENTS

**Legislative Outlook** - Before the legislative session kicked off, we heard from legislators representing all four caucuses discussing what their tech priorities were going to be in 2018.

**Legislative Reception** - We held a reception sponsored by Google that brought together legislators, state officials and representatives of the tech industry to discuss industry priorities as the session kicked off.

**Day at the Capitol** - We hosted members at the Colorado State Capitol in February for a firsthand look at the political process and gave them the opportunity to hear from legislators working on tech legislation.

**DC Fly-In** - We held our annual DC Fly-In in partnership with CompTIA and TECNA in February. We met with the Department of Education around computer science education funding; and met with senators Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet, and Congressman Jared Polis as well as with the staffs of congressmen Lamborn, Coffman and Perlmutter to advocate for tech priorities. As a result, we were able to add a new co-sponsor to the CHANCE in Tech Act, which provides increased funding for tech apprenticeships.



**Tech Caucus** - We launched the Tech Caucus last year to help provide timely information on tech issues. This year the Legislature saw many bills related to blockchain technology and saw the need for further education on the topic. We brought in experts working in the blockchain space to provide an understanding of the technology and what other states are doing with regards to regulation.

**Policy Webinars** - In late 2017, we started Policy Webinars to provide members with updates on policy and regulations impacting the tech sector.

**Advocacy Updates** - We have continued the Advocacy Update newsletter to provide members with up-to-date information on legislation and policies affecting tech. We have redesigned the update to be more user friendly and were excited to have Google as a sponsor in 2018.

