



## [Colorado Capitol Update](#)

**April 24**

### **Senate Bill 228 – Democrats want to grow government...again**

As the current economic downturn continues, Coloradans are buckling down and finding ways to live within their means. Not so with the current Democratic majority in the state legislature, as they continue to push through a bill that would blow the spending caps on the government's budget. Currently, the Arveschoug-Bird limit prevents Colorado's general-fund budget from growing by more than 6% per year. Senate Bill 228 completely rescinds this fiscally-responsible provision, while also undoing the voter-approved Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, better known as TABOR. Despite the fact that such a voter-approved measure can only be constitutionally annulled by a vote of the people, Democrats are content to bypass this step and abolish the spending limit. Though all RSCC members are staunchly opposed to it, the vast Democratic majority had enough votes to pass it out of the Senate to the House, where it will be heard next week. To voice your concern, please contact your state representative.

### **House Bill 1342 – Tax increases continue**

On two party-line committee votes, Democrats have furthered a bill that seeks to increase cigarette taxes. Regardless of arguments concerning the nature of smoking itself, RSCC Vice-Chair [Representative Kent Lambert](#) maintains that this is yet another violation of the Colorado Constitution, as any state tax increase must be approved by the voters. After passing out of the House Appropriations Committee, HB-1342 will now be debated in the House. Further reading can be found [HERE](#).

### **Senate Bill 85 – Repeal of business personal property tax clears Senate**

In a move that many say has long been needed, the Colorado Senate gave its initial approval to SB-85, sponsored by RSCC member [Senator Mark Scheffel](#). Colorado's current practice of taxing business property means businesses pay an additional tax on property, i.e. desks and chairs, after the original purchase tax. This absurd practice has rightly been blamed for killing job growth and preventing businesses from being established in Colorado. As Senator Scheffel said, "It's got to be universally the most hated tax." SB-85 will phase out the tax and signal that Colorado is "serious about doing business," said RSCC Chair [Senator Kevin Lundberg](#). With the economy continuing to slump, SB-85 is just the sort of strategy Colorado must employ to remain competitive.

**Weekly Poll:** Should the Colorado legislature remove the state spending limit? Vote [HERE](#) (scroll down).