

Summary of Legislation

2026



Local Government

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The General Assembly considered several bills concerning local governments during the 2026 legislative session, including those related to county governments, regulatory authority, local control, and newspaper publication.

County Governments

Several pieces of legislation were related specifically to county governments. The salaries for a county's elected officials' are determined by the county's categorization in state statute. [Senate Bill 26-092](#) modifies this categorization for Cheyenne, Dolores, Lake, and Pitkin Counties,

[House Bill 26-1239](#) makes changes to county enforcement authority by allowing counties to enforce code violations related to:

- the removal of rubbish, including trash, junk, and garbage;
- the removal of weeds and brush;
- the removal or securing of any building or structure in instances where it presents a substantial danger or hazard to the public health, safety, or welfare; and
- the unlawful erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, or use of any building or structure in violation of county zoning ordinances.

[Senate Bill 26-105](#) requires county coroners to disclose financial interests in businesses regulated by their office. The bill also modifies population thresholds for the licenses required for holding office.

Regulatory Authority and State Law Compliance

[Senate Bill 26-098](#), which was postponed indefinitely, would have addressed local governments' authority related to statewide noise limits that were initially codified in 1971. The proposed expanded exceptions included:

- the use of property owned or controlled by the state or a political subdivision of the state;
- the use of property pursuant to a noise permit or license that is issued by a local government; and
- the use of property owned or controlled by a nonprofit entity for a cultural, entertainment, athletic, or patriotic event.

[House Bill 26-1257](#) allows local governments to adopt regulations to deter illicit massage businesses that are more restrictive than state law, including the authority to create additional licensing requirements. The bill also expands the definition of "illicit massage business" to include a massage business that

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engages in crimes other than human-trafficking-related offenses.

In an effort to support local government compliance with landfill methane regulations adopted by the state Air Quality Control Commission, [Senate Bill 26-101](#) makes changes to the availability of methane emission reduction grants for local governments.

Local Control

[House Bill 26-1253](#) addresses the ability of agricultural property owners to disconnect from a municipality. The bill includes urban renewal authorities and special districts among the types of local governments that must be notified when this occurs, and prohibits disconnection for certain agricultural properties that lie within the boundaries of an urban renewal authority or special district.

[Senate Bill 26-157](#) adjusts the process for determination of town abandonment by allowing the registered elector of a town to apply for an abandonment determination and allowing towns that own or operate critical water treatment infrastructure to proceed with an application for immediate abandonment. The bill also authorizes the transfer of grant funds to cover the cost of operation and maintenance of a town's water system if an application for abandonment of the town has been filed and the town has a water system that is failing or is likely to fail.

Newspaper Publication

Two bills addressed requirements for publishing legal notices in local newspapers. [House Bill 26-1095](#) requires that legal notices be published online in addition to a print publication, and requires that these notices be available without a paywall.

[Senate Bill 26-061](#) allows for publication in a newspaper outside of a county if there are no suitable alternatives within that county.