Week in Review 09: April 5-12 / 2023

***Newsworthy Items from Under the Dome***

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The bills described below can be linked to via the website of the state legislature; the link to all bills is located near the bottom of the home page under the label “House Status Sheet” (https://leg.colorado.gov; next to it is the “Senate Status Sheet” should you care to view it). For those of you who might wish to contact legislators, you can find their contact information under the tab “Legislators” in the upper third of the same home page. While you’ll likely want to contact your own representative first, all of them have the label “state representative” and thus would profit from your input, should you wish to give it.

HB24-1311, HB24-1247, SB24-066, SB24-003, SB24-068

Governor Jared Polis has overseen the state budget since 2019 (he was elected in November 2018); the Table

below shows the rate of growth for population, select budget items, and the overall budget since then (fiscal years 2019-20 to 2024-25). Given the centrality of budgeting for state government and given its impact on the economic life of the state and every person, it is included for you to ponder.

**TABLE 1**: POPULATION AND GOVERNMENT GROWTH, 2019-241 (Note: the state receives revenue from several sources, i.e., the federal government, fees and fines, etc. The abbreviation GF refers to ‘General Fund’, the major revenue depository for personal and business income taxes, etc. as well as the chief source of funding for government programs).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY** | **2019** | **2024** | **% INCREASE** |
| State Population2 | 5,758,486 | 5,885,252 | 2.1% |
| State employees (excl. teachers) | 60,954 | 66,189 | 8.6% |
|  |  |  |  |
| GF Pub Health (Medicaid) | $3,151,370,264 | $4,979,162,925 | 58.0% |
| GF Education Spending3 | $4,405,170,565 | $4,701,537,536 | 6.7% |
| GF Department of Corrections | $885,094,026 | $1,075,804,841 | 21.5% |
| GF Department of Transportation | $0 | $0 | na |
| General Fund Total Spending | $7,569,462,062 | $15,845,477,498 | 109.3% |
|  |  |  |  |
| Per man, woman, child tax burden | $1314 | $2692 | 104.9% |
| Per household4 | $3416 | $7000 | 104.9% |
| Family of 4 | $5256 | $10,768 | 104.9% |
|  |  |  |  |
| Total State Spending | $32,515,844,199 | $42,914,588,953 | 32.0% |

**Comments:**

 Table 1 tells the story of politicians determined to take more of your money in order to give it to the friends and causes they believe in; it’s the story of an ever-growing bureaucracy – one with an insatiable appetite for other people’s money and power sufficient to tear down a society.

 Has your income doubled since 2019? Has your family spending doubled since then? For most people, the answer is “no” – but our Democrat state government has grown like that. Over the past 6 years our population has grown 0.35% per year, but our spending has increased by 18% a year – roughly 52 times as much. That’s out-of-control growth.

 People like to complain about runaway spending at the *federal* level, but over the past 6 years in Colorado the household burden of state government has more than doubled in price to $7000 per household, and almost $11,000 – per year – for a family of 4. State government growth is out of control.

 Over the past 5 years, Colorado’s population has grown a modest 2.1% while state General Fund

1 2019 data comes from the 2019-20 Appropriations Report (https://leg.colorado.gov/publication-search?search\_api\_views\_ fulltext=%22Appropriations%20 Report%22&field\_publication\_type=All&field\_agency=17&sort\_bef\_combine=field

\_date%20DESC&field\_subjects=All). The financial data for 2024 comes from the 2024-25 Budget Package and Long Bill Narrative (https://leg.colorado.gov/publications/fy-2024-25-budget-package-and-long-bill-narrative), p. 18, 19.

2 Per: https:[//www.macrotrends.net/states/colorado/population.](http://www.macrotrends.net/states/colorado/population) The 2024 population estimate was calculated by multiplying the 2023 population by the average the rate of growth from 2019 to 2023 (0.52% per year) and dividing it by 1/4th (to account for the quarter year from Jan to Mar 2024).

3 This includes K-12 programs; it does not include preschool spending or higher education spending.

4 At: https://wisevoter.com/state-rankings/average-household-size-by-state/; the average CO household has 2.6 persons.

spending has increased 109% – have you, the average citizen, gotten a 109% increase in services, safety, and road improvements?

 Medicaid spending has ballooned by nearly 60% over the past 6 years. Over 25% of Coloradans are now on Medicaid – while the rest of us are forced to pay. The state government is spending almost

$10,000 per year on each Medicaid recipient. When you add the matching money from the federal government, we’re spending $20,000 a year per person. That does not include older citizens who rely on Medicare. Does someone really have the gall to demand we spend more?

 You wonder why Colorado roads are so lousy? Look at the paltry amount of money we spend on Transportation. Most of the money spent comes from the federal government, and a certain amount is taken from gasoline taxes for maintenance, but our roads are appalling and everyone knows it. But Democrats are okay with that because they want people to live in cities and use mass transit.

 We’ve increased bureaucratic jobs at 4 times the rate of population growth.

 The numbers on education are a little misleading; according to the latest audited figures from the Department of Education, on average Colorado school districts receive $18,456 per pupil1 – meanwhile, student results stink.2 But we will surely here demands to spend more.

Then there’s this: Last year Colorado’s state government collected about $1.5 billion more than it was due; under the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR), that money must be returned to the taxpayers. In the time remaining in the legislative session, Democrats will attempt to pass legislation that “returns” that money to taxpayers via the creation of several new programs funded via tax credits, insuring that those that pay the least in taxes will receive the lion’s share of refunds.

In this way, Democrats can trumpet their compassion as the middleman who takes from the rich under threat of force, to pay his friends, who will pay for his reelection efforts.

The only loser is the law-abiding, taxpaying citizen. That’s the price of utopia.

* On Monday, April 8th the Colorado House Finance Committee passed the mother-of-all tax credits, one that will wipe out whatever tax refunds you might have hoped to receive for overpaying your state income tax. This will occur via **HB24-1311** (re ‘Family affordability tax credit’), a bill that provides low- and middle-income families, including those in the country illegally, with thousands of taxpayer dollars.

# Background –

* + There are two political maxims at work here. The first is the principle that in the name of compassion you can do almost anything. That’s the reason, for example, that so much legislation is ostensibly done “for the children”, “for the historically underrepresented”, and so on. Unfortunately this sort of compassion does not often care about fairness or addressing root causes – it aims only to alleviate suffering.
  + To take but one example, studies have shown that the best way to enjoy a relatively prosperous life in America is to graduate from high school, then get a full time job or go to college, then wait until marriage to have children. This represents not merely the wisdom of the ages (e.g., Acts 15:29; 1Cor 6:1-19; Mark 7:2-23; Exod 20:14; Lev 18, etc.) but also a statistical reality.3 Yet many choose not to follow this formula and as a result encounter many adverse consequences. So the question arises: what should the government do when people experience the consequences of their own bad decisions? What do we do with the single mother that continues to say ‘yes’ to the sexual advances of unworthy men (to cite but one example)?
  + In general, as a second maxim Progressives believe the role of government is to relieve the suffering caused by bad decisions, especially when those making such bad decisions are tribally identified as a minority of one sort or another. In this respect government must be large and powerful, in effect a surrogate for God (To be sure, Progressives don’t really

1 See p. 96 of: https://[www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/fiscalyear2021-2022districtrevenuesandexpenditures.](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/fiscalyear2021-2022districtrevenuesandexpenditures)

2 Latest results at: [http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/cmas-dataandresults-2023.](http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/cmas-dataandresults-2023)

3 Per: https:[//www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2020/11/step-3-success-youth-get-married-having-children#:~:text=Studies%20show%](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2020/11/step-3-success-youth-get-married-having-children#%3A~%3Atext%3DStudies%20show%25) 20that%20Americans%20are,having%20children%2C%20in%20that%20order.; also: https://[www.heritage.org/poverty-and-](http://www.heritage.org/poverty-and-) inequality/report/marriage-americas-greatest-weapon-against-child-poverty; and, https://ifstudies.org/blog/what-does-the- success-sequence-mean

believe individuals have agency or primary control over their own actions; instead, they are victims of an unjust society that has evolved over years to reward oppressors and crush their victims.)

* + The chief mechanism for this relief is the redistribution of money: the state government takes money from one taxpayer and gives it to another, more deserving one based on whatever that government’s standard of ‘compassion’ demands.
  + But what lessons are learned by anyone who chooses unwisely when a big government is standing at the ready to mitigate the consequences of the poor decisions? (It should also be noted that this big government will do nothing to demand or even encourage people to make better decisions because doing so would be ‘judgmental’).
  + So now in the Colorado of 2024, the Progressive narrative tells us that many individuals, children and families are suffering as a result of an oppressive system that has made them victims. HB 1311 requires those that have made better choices (or who simply refuse to label themselves as victims) to financially underwrite the daily life of those less fortunate, even when the suffering or lack of money is a result of their own bad choices.
  + The bill will take hundreds of millions of dollars from the sort of people that invent things, create jobs, and generally contribute to economic progress and give that money to those without such a track record.
  + The money goes to those with a certain “AGI” (Adjusted Gross Income); AGI is the amount of earnings subject to taxation after various deductions (e.g., IRA contributions, moving expenses, alimony paid, self-employed health insurance deduction, health savings account deductions, etc.) have occurred but prior to the calculation of things like the child tax credit. Thus a person could easily have earned $100,000 or even more and still qualify for this taxpayer funded credit.

# The Bill

Starting with tax year 2024, the bill creates a family affordability income tax credit for Coloradans with children. The credit is available to single filers with a federal adjusted gross income (AGI) up to $75,000 or joint filers with AGI up to $85,000. The credit is refundable, meaning any amount by which the credit exceeds a taxpayer’s tax liability is refunded to the taxpayer. Those in the country illegally can receive the refund. The amount of the credit is:

* + for each child under age 6, $3,200 for single filers with AGI of $15,000 or less, reduced by

$220 for every $5,000 of AGI above $15,000; and

* + for each child ages 6 to 16, $2,400 for single filers with AGI of $15,000 or less, reduced by

$165 for every $5,000 of AGI above $15,000; or

* + for each child under age 6, $3,200 for joint filers with AGI of $25,000 or less, reduced by

$220 for every $5,000 of AGI above $25,000; and

* + for each child ages 6 to 16, $2,400 for joint filers with AGI or $25,000 or less, reduced by

$165 for every $5,000 of AGI above $25,000.

* + The means-testing in the bill does not include money received from various public benefits for healthcare, housing, food, or education – these public benefits can be worth tens of thousands of dollars but never show up as income to beneficiaries.

# The Upside / Downside

* + The bill is the Robin Hood version of TABOR refunds – take the refunds due to those who have overpaid by a lot, and give them to those that – in most instances – pay little to ZERO income taxes.
  + Those in the country illegally are eligible to get the money refunds due to legal residents – why do we reward people whose very presence in the state starts with breaking the law?
  + There’s a hook thrown in for the middle class – those earning up to $100,000 will be eligible for some relief.
  + The bill creates a massive new entitlement, one that will need to be funded in the future even after an economic downturn when no TABOR refund money is available.
* On Monday April 8th the House passed **SB24-066** (re ‘Firearms merchant category code’; Reps Froelich, Mabrey) on Third Reading and final passage; the legislation now goes to the Governor for his signature.

# Background

The prior version of the WIR supplied details regarding recent gun legislation in Colorado. The background to this bill is ideological: a large group of citizens and legislators believe the founding generation erred in creating a Second Amendment to ensure citizens can be armed to protect themselves against criminals or an oppressive government. They believe citizens cannot be trusted with firearms and, barring the ability to simply confiscate guns, it is the role of government to create as many impediments as possible to limit their acquisition.

It is a sad fact of human behavior that criminals will use whatever tool is at hand to threaten, steal from, hurt and even kill others. Progressives imagine that firearms cause death; conservatives believe firearms are the great equalizer, the thing that enables small, weaker or less numerous persons to defend themselves effectively against larger, more aggressive, and more numerous opponents.

This bill represents another effort to make life just that much harder for law-abiding citizens.

# The Bill

* + The bill requires businesses that receive most of their income from firearms employ a firearms-distinct merchant category for credit card transactions involving firearms. Sounds harmless, right?
  + In the lead up to debate, we learned that credit card companies – the ones tasked with creating and tracking the category – reported they did not believe they could meet the enactment date contained in the bill; moreover, several states explicitly prohibit the tracking of firearms purchases so that companies must have different categories in different states, thus adding to the cost of doing business.
  + During debate bill sponsors said the data would only be used after the fact to help build a case against someone being investigating for a crime, so the question becomes, “What’s the point?” If credit card companies do not want to do it, and say they cannot do it in a timely manner, and if it only applies to investigations that occur after a crime has been committed (when law enforcement has the legal right to search and seize anyway), then why have this bill?
  + But the Senate sponsor (Sullivan) said the quiet part aloud when he affirmed that the bill would be used by the Attorney General’s office to track ‘suspicious activity’ – a term, by the way, that is never defined in the bill itself; one Democrat representative (Chad Clifford) said during the floor debate that the bill would be used to provide ongoing information to law enforcement.
  + Thus the bill is apparently designed as a prelude to the creation of registry of gun owners, (should the government decide to do so) or as a prelude to creating new investigations where no crime has been committed. The real question, therefore, is ‘do you trust your government to preserve your privacy and your constitutional rights?’

# The Upside / Downside

* + I cannot think of a single advantage to this bill; moreover, its provisions can be avoided by simply using cash for purchases.
  + Yet firearms continue to be used by Americans to defend life and property over a quarter- million times a year.1
  + This is another reason for law-abiding citizens to doubt the intentions of their government.
* On Tuesday, April 9th the House passed **SB24-068** (re ‘Medical aid in dying’; Rep Brown) on Third Reading; the bill now goes to the Governor for his signature.

1 See: https://[www.researchgate.net/publication/344273747\_What\_Do\_CDC's\_Surveys\_Say\_About\_the\_Prevalence\_of\_](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/344273747_What_Do_CDC%27s_Surveys_Say_About_the_Prevalence_of_) Defensive\_Gun\_Use; https://fee.org/articles/more-people-use-a-gun-in-self-defense-each-year-than-die-in-car-accidents/; https://nap.nationalacademies.org/download/18319 (p. 15, etc.); Gary Kleck, Marc Gertz, “Armed Resistance to Crime: The Prevalence and Nature of Self-Defense with a Gun”, 86 *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology* 150 (1995-1996).

# Background

* + In 2016 Colorado voters passed overwhelmingly Proposition 106, “Access to Medical Aid in Dying”, a bill to permit state-sanctioned suicide under certain conditions.
  + Proposition 106 permitted terminally ill patients with under six months to live, as determined by two physicians, to self-administer aid-in-dying drugs to voluntarily die. To be eligible, the patient must be at least 18 years old, determined mentally capable by two physicians, and able to communicate an informed decision.
  + Under Proposition 106 receiving aid-in-dying drugs requires one written request, witnessed by at least two other persons, and two oral requests. The measure also allowed a physician to prescribe the lethal drug to a terminally ill patient under certain conditions. Health providers and facilities are not required to prescribe or dispense aid-in-dying medication. In addition, Proposition 106 criminalized coercing a patient with a terminal illness to request the drug.
  + Several witnesses complained the current law is too burdensome.

# The Bill

The bill changes current law by:

* + Allowing advance practice nurses the same prescribing authority as physicians; and
  + Reducing the waiting period between oral requests from 15 days to 7 days, and eliminating the waiting period if the prognosis is less than 48 hours. Additionally, the bill:

 Prohibits using parenteral injection or infusion for self-administered aid-in-dying medication;

 Places disclosure requirements on providers and facilities that refuse to participate;

 Prohibits facilities from prohibiting providers from providing select information to patients;

 States that medical aid-in-dying must not prevent the state from receiving federal funds; and

 Codifies certain health and life insurance requirements, and prohibits health insurance carriers from attempting to coerce a request for medical aid-in-dying.

# The Upside / Downside

* + Republicans sought to amend the bill by ensuring those with an expressed desire to commit suicide would have access to mental health resources; Democrats would not allow the amendment to be offered.
  + When Proposition 106 was passed its sponsors assured the public that there would be no future dilution of the standards to receive suicide-inducing drugs in Colorado; this bill breaks that promise and leaves many of us wondering how much more the standards will be relaxed in the future. There’s been a recent uptick in Oregon of those involving the state in their own suicide.1
* On Wednesday, April 10th the House Judiciary Committee passed **SB24-003** (re ‘CBI authority to investigate firearms crimes’; Reps Froelich, Duran); the bill now goes to the House as a whole for Second Reading.

# Background

* + The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is an executive agency answerable to the Governor of Colorado.

**Colorado Bureau of Investigation** (CBI), a division of Colorado Department of Public Safety, is a law enforcement agency of the state of Colorado that performs forensic and laboratory services and criminal investigations at the request of local and state law enforcement agencies and district attorneys. They investigate arson, homicides, sexual assaults, fraud, cyber, identity theft, and other crimes. Their forensic services include DNA, biology, firearm, latent print, toxicology and drug chemistry analysis. Other units in the CBI include Crime Scene Services, Crime Information Management Unit, Criminal Justice Information Systems, and Colorado’s InstaCheck Unit. The CBI is designated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Criminal Justice Information

1 See: https://[www.catholicworldreport.com/2024/03/28/oregon-reports-significant-uptick-in-assisted-suicides/.](http://www.catholicworldreport.com/2024/03/28/oregon-reports-significant-uptick-in-assisted-suicides/)

Services (CJIS) Division, as the CJIS Systems Agency for Colorado.1 The CBI is primarily a “by request” agency responding to requests for investigative and forensic services from law enforcement, district attorneys and other state agencies. The CBI also has the statutory authority to initiate investigations of organized crime, identity theft/fraud, gaming violations, cyber crimes as well as the investigation and apprehension of fugitives.2

* + The CBI has recently been embroiled in controversy due to the discovery that its chief scientist had unlawfully manipulated DNA results for decades, thus putting in doubt the results of many court cases.3
  + This bill was opposed by every District Attorney in Colorado; in other words, the people responsible to prosecute these crimes object to the law.

# The Bill

The bill authorizes the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) within the Department of Public Safety (CDPS) to investigate criminal activity involving firearms on a statewide basis. CBI must communicate with the appropriate local law enforcement agency and collaborate with the local district attorney in the jurisdiction where it is conducting an investigation. Nothing in the bill authorizes CBI to investigate other criminal activity encountered during a firearms-related investigation without consent from, or in collaboration with, the local law enforcement agency.

# The Upside / Downside

* + According to bill sponsors anyone’s who’s failed a background check is a felon that should be prosecuted, yet law enforcement statistics tell us that half of these denials are the result of bureaucratic snafus that are eventually reversed.
  + The bill says that CBI will pursue “egregious attempts to purchase firearms” by convicted felons, but it never defines what an ‘egregious attempt’ is.
  + Local sheriffs are accountable to voters, the CBI is accountable to the Governor and his or her political whims.
  + In general, criminals do not fail background checks but they don’t typically seek to purchase firearms lawfully, thus this bill will be aimed at people with a demonstrated commitment to obtain firearms lawfully – but they’ll pay for it once the CBI comes knocking.
* On Wednesday, April 10th the House Education Committee passed **HB24-1247** (re ‘Digital education materials’; Rep Bradley); the bill now goes to the Appropriations Committee and, hopefully, the House as a whole for further consideration.

# Background

* + In the bill’s initial committee hearing parents turned up to describe how pornographic and other commercial ‘pop-ups’ showed up on school computers being used by elementary school children.
  + School districts contract with vendors to provide electronic educational materials all over the state – these vendors exercise direct control over the content provided.

# The Bill

The bill was amended in committee; the substance of the bill is as follows:

“FOR A CONTRACT THAT A PUBLIC SCHOOL CONTRACTING ENTITY ENTERS INTO WITH A VENDOR OR RENEWS WITH A VENDOR ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2024, FOR A CURATED DIGITAL RESEARCH COLLECTION THAT IS SCHOLARLY IN NATURE OR INTENDED TO SUPPLEMENT EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND IS USED BY STUDENTS, THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CONTRACTING ENTITY SHALL INCLUDE IN THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT A TERMINATION CLAUSE STATING THAT THE CONTRACT IS MATERIALLY BREACHED AND THAT GROUNDS FOR TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT EXIST IF THE COLLECTION CONTAINS ADVERTISEMENTS, PROMOTIONS, OR EMBEDDED LINKS OR URLS. ALL VENDORS MUST CERTIFY THAT CURATED DIGITAL RESEARCH COLLECTIONS ARE FREE OF ADVERTISEMENTS, PROMOTIONS, OR EMBEDDED LINKS OR URLS. IF A VENDOR VIOLATES THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2), THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CONTRACTING ENTITY IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT AND MAY PURSUE CIVIL REMEDIES, INCLUDING ATTORNEY FEES FOR DAMAGES RELATED TO LOCATING

1 From: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado\_Bureau\_of\_Investigation.

2 At: https://cbi.colorado.gov/sites/cbi/files/fact%20sheet%202023\_6.pdf.

3 See: https://[www.cnn.com/2024/03/09/us/colorado-bureau-of-investigation-data-scientist-manipulation-case/index.html.](http://www.cnn.com/2024/03/09/us/colorado-bureau-of-investigation-data-scientist-manipulation-case/index.html)

ALTERNATE RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS REGARDING THE VIOLATION.”

# The Upside / Downside

* + The bill would go a long way toward protecting young students from obscene material by providing a mechanism for school districts to void vendor contracts of the vendors fail to provide safeguards on the materials and programs that they themselves sell to schools.
  + Several Democrats supported the bill, though a few objected, arguing that the committee should have heard about the feasibility of the bill from an IT perspective. Yet given that these vendors are responsible for their product from start to finish, these objections rang hollow.
* Friday, April 12th the House as a whole debated **HB24-1292** (re ‘Prohibit certain weapons used in mass shootings’; Reps Hernandez, Epps). Democrats announced they would permit no more than 5 hours of debate, presumably because they believe so deeply in the principles of free speech and public discourse.

# Background

* + This bill and recent Democrat-sponsored gun legislation was discussed at length in previous WIRs (7 and 8).
  + It would ban the sale of every pistol, shotgun, and rifle that is capable of semi-automatic fire; that definition covers roughly 85% of the guns currently sold in Colorado.
  + Most every gun store in the state would be forced to close (per their public testimony).
  + Any store selling a prohibited would be subject to a fine of $250,000 for a first offense, and

$500,000 for a subsequent offense (this provision was later amended to a fine of $300 for individuals).

* + Violation of the law will be a petty – but *criminal* – offense:

**CRS 18-1.3-503(1)** For offenses committed prior to March 1, 2022, a violation of a statute of this state is a petty offense if specifically classified as a class 1 or class 2 petty offense. The penalty for commission of a class 1 petty offense, upon conviction, is a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisonment for not more than six months other than in state correctional facilities, or both. The penalty for commission of a class 2 petty offense is a fine specified in the section defining the offense. The penalty assessment procedure of section 16-2-201 is available for the payment of fines in class 2 petty offense cases. **(1.5)** For offenses committed on or after March 1, 2022, a violation of a statute of this state is a petty offense if specifically classified as a petty offense. The penalty for commission of a petty offense, upon conviction, is a fine of not more than three hundred dollars, imprisonment for not more than ten days in a county jail, or both.

* + The bill thus assigns a criminal record to anyone in violation of the law (think about how

this will look on job applications) and permits a judge to send him or her to jail for 10 days. (Note: even as I write this paragraph the bill is being amended so the best way to know its contents for sure is to visit the state website listed at the beginning of this WIR).

# The Bill

The bill does not prohibit the possession or ownership of a semiautomatic firearm, but the bill does make it illegal to manufacture, import, purchase, or sale of assault weapons, as defined by the bill, and the possession or sale of rapid-fire trigger activators. Persons attempting to sell an assault weapon or rapid-fire trigger activator after July 1, 2024, are guilty of a petty offense.

Exceptions are provided for the sale of remaining inventory after August 1, 2024, to nonresidents, and for military and peace officers, lawful transfers for maintenance, and forensic laboratories, among others. Finally, the bill adds assault weapons to the list of firearms it is unlawful to provide to juveniles without parental or guardian consent.

# The Upside / Downside

* + The bill is designed to rob law-abiding people of the ability to defend themselves and exercise their right to self-defense found in both the Colorado and federal constitutions; the bill does zip, zero, nada to thwart criminals who typically acquire firearms by stealing them from homes and vehicles.
  + The bill will crush hundreds of small businesses and force them to close their doors by the

end of this year.

* + I believe the founding generation of this country had a word for this: Tyranny.
  + Who knows what the Supreme Court will do once this bill reaches it (if it does – some have speculated the Governor might veto the bill to burnish his ‘moderate’ bona fides).

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