



CAPITOL BUSINESS

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► HE SAID, SHE SAID

2 VIEWS ON TRANSPORTATION MONEY

Colorado's top two legislative leaders both weighed in on transportation funding during their Jan. 10 opening-day speeches.

"Forecasts for the next budget indicate that state revenue is substantially exceeding previous estimates, giving us the ability to make new investments in key statewide priorities. Let me be clear: Transportation funding is a priority. And our Colorado students also are a priority."



CRISANTA DURAN, House Speaker, D-Denver

"I applaud the governor for moving in the right direction with his budget proposal, putting an additional \$148 million into our roads. While I personally believe that number should be higher, the fact remains that we are moving in the right direction. Let's invest in something meaningful,



our roads, and benefits will stem from every corner of Colorado, in every neighborhood, and possibly in every household."

KEVIN GRANTHAM, Senate President, R-Cañon City

► BIG NUMBER

20,000

The number of Colorado students Gov. John Hickenlooper said he would like to see in apprenticeship programs within 10 years — a figure he outlined during his Jan. 11 State of the

State address. The Democrat called for a transformation from a degree-based education system to a skills-based system and even suggested that schools with foreign language requirements should let students take coding to fulfill those requirements.

► BRIEFLY NOTED

BILLS THAT MEAN BUSINESS

Colorado's 2018 legislative session began on Jan. 10, and the first day alone saw a number of business-focused bills introduced. Here are some:

Senate Bill 1, sponsored by Republican state Sens. Randy Baumgardner of Hot Sulphur Springs and John Cooke of Greeley, seeks to ask voters to approve as much as \$3.5 billion in bond sales for transportation needs and to pay back those bonds with increasing tax revenues coming into state coffers.

SB 2, sponsored by Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg, R-Sterling, allocates money currently going to rural phone providers through the high-cost support mechanism to rural broadband providers instead, drawing down the current fund in five yearly steps beginning in 2019.

SB 3, sponsored by Sen. Ray Scott, R-Grand Junction, directs more funding to the Colorado Energy Office and enables it to spend more of it on education regarding traditional fuels.

SB 48, sponsored by Sen. Matt Jones, D-Louisville, allows local governments to have more regulatory control over oil and gas drilling through their zoning laws.

House Bill 1001, sponsored by Democratic state Reps. Faith Winter of Westminster and Matt Gray of Broomfield, would establish an employee-funded family-and-sick leave program for all private businesses.



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Sen. Ray Scott sponsored SB3, which directs more funding to the Colorado Energy Office and enables it to spend more of it on education regarding traditional fuels.

HB 1036, sponsored by Rep. Tim Leonard, R-Evergreen, would raise from \$7,400 to \$50,000 the maximum value of equipment a business could own without having to pay any business personal property tax.

