

Winners & Losers Summary Ignores Significant Legislation (Denver Post)

The Denver Post's Editorial Board missed a major story of the 2013 General Assembly ("Winners and Losers", May 12) making them like all other media outlets in the State. Naming dogs and cats as the State's animal was on their list of important legislation but laws directly affecting nearly two million residents, over half a million homeowners, and scores of businesses were left off. Training law enforcement officers on encounters with dogs got more attention than new regulatory oversight and licensing requirements of a profession that is involved in inflicting financial hardship on homeowners and restricting their property rights. The big story missed and one that continues to be under reported concerns three Bills passed into law that will affect residents living in Homeowners Associations (HOA's). The HOA Bills will begin the process of containing abusive foreclosures on HOA homeowners for the smallest amounts owed; a program will be implemented to license HOA property managers and bring a code of conduct, enforcement, and penalties to an industry involved in abusive financial practices, mismanagement, and abuse of HOA homeowner's rights; and work will begin on identifying an accessible, affordable, and non-litigious HOA homeowner dispute resolution process with emphasis on settling such issues in an out of court venue.

HOA homeowner advocacy groups such as the Colorado HOA Forum, www.coloradohoaforum.com , consider this legislative session a banner year for HOA homeowner's rights. Issues concerning HOA homeowners should be elevated in importance and more extensively reported upon than issues addressing isolated problems and symbolic legislative gestures.