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Local politics news briefs

By The Denver Post

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Dems chair wants Coffman to resign

DENVER — The chairwoman of the state Democratic Party said Monday that Secretary of State Mike Coffman, a Republican, should quit. "Coffman has failed miserably in his attempts to instill the confidence and trust the voting public deserves in the elections process," Pat Waak said in a statement.

In a statement of his own, Coffman called Waak's statement "goofy" and said he has been following the rules laid out in a court order. The fate of this year's elections is uncertain after Coffman announced that some voting machines do not meet state standards.

Coffman has said he might be able to get the machines certified in time to use in the election, and legislators will likely consider several bills dealing with how to conduct this year's elections.

Bill forces utilities to push energy efficiency.

Large municipal utilities and rural electric associations would have to put some money into energy efficiency programs under a bill introduced on Monday

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Claire Levy, D-Boulder, and a host of other House Democrats, would require the power providers to devote 2 percent of their sales revenue to programs to increase energy efficiency. It would apply only to providers that serve 5,000 or more customers.

Levy said researchers from the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project determined such programs could annually save an amount of energy equivalent to what 170,000 homes use in a year.

Motor Vehicles computer glitch extends customers' wait.

As if the wait times at state Division of Motor Vehicles offices weren't bad enough, a computer glitch on Monday extended the agony.

A national computer system that allows motor vehicle workers to check if someone has a suspended license in another state went down for about 20 minutes Monday around 2 p.m., Department of Revenue spokesman Mark Couch said. The system was up and running at 2:21 p.m., Couch said.