



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0330
Prime Sponsors:

Date: October 15, 2019
Bill Status: Bill Request
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Bill Topic: STUDY STRENGTHENING WATER ANTI-SPECULATION LAW

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure (minimal), State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources to convene a work group during the 2020 interim to explore ways to strengthen water anti-speculation law. This will increase workload for several state agencies beginning in FY 2019-20 through FY 2021-22.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the bill draft requested by the Water Resources Review Committee.

Summary of Legislation

Colorado water law prohibits speculation in water rights. The bill requires the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to convene a work group during the 2020 interim to explore ways to strengthen water anti-speculation law. The DNR and the Attorney General are required to support the efforts of the work group.

The work group will consist of current or former employees of the DNR, the Attorney General's Office, and the Judicial Department as well as other stakeholders that the Executive Director of the DNR determines would be helpful to the work group process or work product. The work group is required to provide a written report of recommended changes to water anti-speculation law to the Water Resources Review Committee by August 15, 2021.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase workload for the DNR, Department of Law, and the Judicial Branch. The DNR will convene the work group, facilitate and participate in meetings, and prepare the final report. The Department of Law will provide support and work group members. The Judicial Branch will also provide work group members. These workload increases can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Information Technology

Judicial

Law

Natural Resources