



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 23-0089
Prime Sponsors:

Date: September 19, 2022
Bill Status: Bill Request
Fiscal Analyst: Alexa Kelly | 303-866-3469
Alexa.Kelly@state.co.us

Bill Topic: TASK FORCE ON HIGH-ALTITUDE WATER STORAGE

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

This bill creates a task force of the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee to study the feasibility of implementing water storage in the form of snow in high-altitude areas. It increases state expenditures in FY 2023-24 only.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2023-24, the bill requires an appropriation of \$12,899 to the Legislative Department.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under Bill 8

Table with 3 columns: Category, Budget Year FY 2023-24, and Out Year FY 2024-25. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total), Transfers, and Other Budget Impacts (General Fund Reserve).

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates a task force to study the feasibility of implementing water storage in the form of snow in high-altitude areas of the state. The task force is made up of the following six members:

- the State Engineer or a designee;
- one Representative and one Senator;
- a representative of the ski industry;
- a representative of the whitewater rafting industry;
- an engineer with knowledge and experience with high-altitude hydrology; and
- a representative from the United States Forest Service.

The task force must convene by November 1, 2023, and meet at least once every three months. The task force must work with stakeholders across Colorado, and prepare a final report to the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee by June 1, 2024. The task force reports on December 1, 2024.

State Expenditures

The bill increases General Fund expenditures by \$12,899 and 0.2 FTE in FY 2023-24 in the Legislative Department. These costs are shown in Table 2 and described below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under Bill 8

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
Legislative Department		
Personal Services	\$11,013	-
Legislator Per Diem	\$895	-
Travel Expenses	\$992	-
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$3,235	-
Total Cost	\$16,134	-
Total FTE	0.2 FTE	-

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Personal Services. The Legislative Department will require additional staff to provide administrative support to the task force, and to prepare the final report. Staff costs are prorated to reflect the General Fund pay date shift and a September 1 start date.

Legislative per diem and travel. The bill requires *per diem* and reimbursement of travel expenses for two members of the General Assembly.

Department of Natural Resources. The State Engineer within the Division of Water Resources will incur workload impacts to participate in the task force, and may incur minimal travel expenses.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are shown in Table 2.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund Reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve beginning in FY 2022-23. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amount shown in Table 1, which will decrease the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2023-24, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$12,899 to the Legislative Department, and 0.2 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Forest Service

Legislative Council

Natural Resources