Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, & Water.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB21-1242 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

Amend printed bill, page 2, line 5, strike "rules-" and substitute "rules-definition-".

Page 2, strike line 18 and substitute:

"(c) DECLARES THAT:
(I) CREATING THE AGRICULTURAL DROUGHT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE OFFICE CAN BEST ADDRESS AND MITIGATE AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE-RELATED ISSUES ON A WIDE SCALE BY PROVIDING SUPPORT TO AND ASSISTING BONA FIDE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN IMPLEMENTING PRACTICES THAT MINIMIZE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE."

Page 3, line 1, strike "PROGRAMS." and substitute "PROGRAMS; AND (II) THE AGRICULTURAL DROUGHT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE OFFICE CAN BEST ADDRESS AND MITIGATE AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE-RELATED ISSUES ON A WIDE SCALE BY PROVIDING SUPPORT TO AND ASSISTING BONA FIDE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN IMPLEMENTING PRACTICES THAT MINIMIZE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.".

Page 3, line 12, strike "INCENTIVES." and substitute "INCENTIVES, INCLUDING GRANTS. BEFORE PROMULGATING THE RULES, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CONVENE A STAKEHOLDER GROUP, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE MEMBERSHIP CONSISTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS ENGAGED IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE TOP TEN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PRODUCED IN COLORADO. THE STAKEHOLDER GROUP SHALL ADVISE THE COMMISSIONER AS TO THE NEEDS OF THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY TO RESPOND TO AND MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. FOR THE
PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION, "BONA FIDE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER" MEANS AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER THAT RECEIVES A MAJORITY OF THE PRODUCER'S ANNUAL INCOME FROM AGRICULTURE, AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER THAT SPENDS MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND FORTY HOURS PER YEAR ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, OR A COLORADO BUSINESS THAT PROCESSES AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. EXCEPT FOR A PROGRAM OR SUPPORT ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE TO ADDRESS IMMEDIATE NEEDS AS A RESULT OF DISASTER, INCLUDING WILDFIRE AND DROUGHT, OR A PROGRAM THAT WAS IN EXISTENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2021:

(a) A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE MUST BE DESIGNED TO BENEFIT BONA FIDE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE. GRANTS AWARDED BY THE OFFICE MUST PAY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PRACTICES TO ADDRESS AND MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE OR DROUGHT OR TO PROVIDE DIRECT ADAPTATION SUPPORT FOR IMPACTED AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES, CONFLICT RESOLUTION ASSISTANCE, AND RISK-MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE. A GRANT AWARD MAY PAY NO MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES INCURRED BY A BONA FIDE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER TO IMPLEMENT THE PRACTICES.

(b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, AT LEAST THIRTY DAYS BEFORE OPENING THE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS, MAKE AVAILABLE ON ITS WEBSITE INFORMATION RELATED TO THE GRANT PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO BONA FIDE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS;

(c) A GRANT AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MUST RECEIVE FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION BEFORE A FINAL AWARD CAN BE ISSUED; AND


Page 4, strike line 6 and substitute:

"(d) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(I) REPORT AND REGULARLY UPDATE ON ITS WEBSITE THE AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF MONEY RECEIVED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (4) AND, IF THE MONEY IS A GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION, THE PURPOSE AND PERIOD OF TIME FOR WHICH THE MONEY IS AVAILABLE; AND

(II) REPORT ANNUALLY THE AMOUNT AND"."
Page 4, line 10, strike "2." and substitute "2 AND, IF THE MONEY IS A GIFT, 
GRANTEE.".

*** *** *** ***