

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

February 20, 2025

Chair of Committee

Date

Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources.

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

HB25-1113 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, page 2, after line 1 insert:

2 "SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general
3 assembly finds that:

4 (a) As Colorado continues to grapple with the impacts of climate
5 change, green urban spaces, such as urban tree canopies, are a vital
6 adaptation tool for mitigating the impacts of climate change, especially
7 for mitigating the urban heat island effect, which can increase energy
8 costs, air pollution, and heat-related illnesses and deaths;

9 (b) However, water supply in the western United States is
10 increasingly scarce due to climate change and increasing demand;

11 (c) Many communities in the state overuse nonnative grass for
12 landscaping purposes, which requires large amounts of water to maintain;

13 (d) While there are appropriate and important uses for turf,
14 including for civic, community, or recreational purposes such as use in
15 parks, sports fields, and playgrounds, much of the turf in the state is
16 nonfunctional, located in areas that receive little, if any, use, and could be
17 replaced with landscaping that adheres to water-wise landscaping
18 principles without adversely impacting quality of life or landscape
19 functionality;

20 (e) Prohibiting the installation, planting, or placement of
21 nonfunctional turf in multifamily property in the state can help conserve
22 the state's water resources;

23 (f) Requiring local governments to regulate turf in new residential
24 properties can help preserve the limited water in our state;

25 (g) Many communities and developments develop in a water-wise
26 manner already and are appreciated; and

27 (h) Installed vegetation that adheres to water-wise landscaping

1 principles can help reduce outdoor demand for water while avoiding heat
2 islands.

3 (2) The general assembly therefore declares that preventing the
4 installation, planting, or placement of nonfunctional turf, artificial turf,
5 and invasive plant species in applicable property in the state is:

6 (a) A matter of statewide concern; and

7 (b) In the public interest."

8 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

9 Page 2, line 3, strike "(1)(a)(II) and (1)(a)(III);" and substitute "(1)(a)(II),
10 (1)(a)(III), and (17);".

11 Page 2, strike line 14.

12 Page 3, strike line 1 and substitute "A MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL
13 HOUSING PREMISES THAT INCLUDES MORE THAN TWELVE DWELLING
14 UNITS."

15 Page 3, after line 3 insert:

16 "(17) "Turf" ~~has the meaning set forth in section 37-60-135 (2)(i)~~
17 MEANS CONTINUOUS PLANT COVERAGE CONSISTING OF NONNATIVE
18 GRASSES OR GRASSES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN HYBRIDIZED FOR ARID
19 CONDITIONS AND WHICH, WHEN REGULARLY MOWED, FORM A DENSE
20 GROWTH OF LEAF BLADES AND ROOTS."

21 Page 3, strike lines 16 and 17 and substitute:

22 **"37-99-104. Regulation of turf in new residential property -**
23 **local entities - exemptions.** (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2028, EACH
24 LOCAL ENTITY".

25 Page 3, line 21, strike "LIMIT" and substitute "REGULATE".

26 Page 3, line 26, strike "LIMIT" and substitute "REGULATE".

27 Page 4, line 3, strike "LIMITS" and substitute "REGULATES".

28 Page 4, after line 5 insert:

29 "(4) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION TO THE
30 CONTRARY, NEITHER A LOCAL ENTITY NOR THE DEPARTMENT SHALL

- 1 RESTRICT A PERSON FROM INSTALLING OR ALLOWING ANOTHER PERSON TO
- 2 INSTALL GRASS SEED OR SOD THAT:
- 3 (a) IS A NATIVE PLANT;
- 4 (b) HAS BEEN HYBRIDIZED FOR ARID CONDITIONS; OR
- 5 (c) IS A LOW-WATER GRASS."

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