



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**SB16-092**

**FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 16-0922  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Grantham  
 Rep. Rankin

**Date:** February 10, 2016  
**Bill Status:** Senate Appropriations  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

**BILL TOPIC:** STATE AUTHORITY UNDER FEDERAL OIL POLLUTION ACT

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
<b>State Revenue</b>	See State Revenue section.	
Cash Funds		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Ongoing revenue increase		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill, *recommended by the Joint Budget Committee*, allows for money that is recovered for damages to the state’s natural resources from oil spills under the federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) to be deposited in the Natural Resource Damage Recovery Fund (NRDRF). The bill also allows the Department of Law (Law) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to borrow money from the Hazardous Substance Recovery Fund (HSRF) to pay for the administrative costs of bringing a claim under the OPA. Once moneys are collected for damages, the funds borrowed from the HSRF are repaid.

**Background**

Under current law, when money is recovered under the OPA, it is held by the United States Department of the Interior because the state has not designated a fund for the recoveries. Investigation and litigation of natural resource damage claims under the OPA are currently funded through a memorandum of understanding between CDPHE, Law, and the Department of the Interior, or by the potentially responsible party.

Moneys in the NRDRF are custodial funds, meaning that CDPHE may expend such funds without the need for annual appropriation. NRDRF funds are used for the replacement, acquisition, or remediation of the property that was the subject of the OPA natural resource damage claim.

**State Revenue**

This bill will increase revenue to the state from OPA recoveries but does not increase the amount of funds available to pursue claims under the OPA. As such, the bill will not result in an increase in claims filed under the OPA. The bill will make money more readily available to pursue claims by allowing natural resource damage recoveries to be deposited into the NRDRF and accessible to CDPHE and Law. The amount of money will vary depending on the timing and size of recoveries.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 10, 2016, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2016, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed. The bill applies to conduct undertaken pursuant to the OPA occurring on or after the effective date.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Information Technology  
Law  
Public Health and Environment

Judicial  
Natural Resources