



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB16-214

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

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

Drafting Number: LLS 16-1279 **Date:** June 22, 2016
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Marble; Hodge **Bill Status:** Postponed Indefinitely
 Rep. Saine; Danielson **Fiscal Analyst:** Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

BILL TOPIC: REAL-TIME WATER MANAGEMENT STUDY

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	<u>up to \$30,000</u>	
Cash Funds	up to 30,000	
Appropriation Required: None required.		
Future Year Impacts: None.		

NOTE: This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to commission the American Ground Water Trust to conduct a study of other western states' use of real-time water management strategies for groundwater and surface water. The CWCB is required to commission the study as soon as practicable, and the trust is required to complete the study within three months and compile the research and findings from the study for the CWCB within one month after completing the study.

The CWCB and the trust are required to report on the research and findings from the study to the House and Senate committees of reference that have jurisdiction over natural resources by January 15, 2017. If the CWCB receives the trust's research and findings before the final meeting of the Water Resources Review Committee (WRRRC) during the 2016 interim, the CWCB and the trust are required to report on the study to the WRRRC.

The bill allows the CWCB to expend up to \$30,000 from the Emergency Dewatering Grant Account of the CWCB Construction Fund to pay for the study. The bill includes a repeal date of September 1, 2017.

Background

House Bill 15-1178 created the emergency dewatering grant program and data collection program in the Department of Natural Resources. The CWCB, in collaboration with the State Engineer, awards grants for emergency pumping of wells permitted for dewatering within or near Gilcrest, and Sterling, Colorado. Grants may be awarded to public entities, private entities, and private individuals. Under current law, for FY 2016-17, the Emergency Dewatering Grant Account will receive a General Fund transfer of \$290,000. The account currently has only \$25,200 in unobligated funds, so the fiscal note assumes the study will not be contracted until FY 2016-17.

State Expenditures

The bill requires that the CWCB spend up to \$30,000 in FY 2016-17 from the Emergency Dewatering Grant Account to fund the real-time water management study. Because the CWCB has an appropriation of \$290,000 for FY 2016-17, this expenditure will not require an appropriation.

Local Government Impact

The bill will reduce the grant funds available for dewatering and data collection. To the extent that local governments apply for grant funds, the bill will reduce the availability of those funds.

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on May 6, 2016.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources