

CHAPTER 188

WATER AND IRRIGATION

HOUSE BILL 17-1219

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Arndt and McLachlan, Becker K., Bridges, Esgar, Hamner, Hansen, Hooton, Lontine, Mitsch Bush, Pabon, Salazar, Valdez, Young;
also SENATOR(S) Crowder and Donovan, Baumgardner, Jones, Kefalas, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Scott, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A.

AN ACT

CONCERNING AN EXTENSION OF THE AGRICULTURAL WATER LEASING PILOT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-60-115, **amend** (8)(a) introductory portion, (8)(d)(IX), (8)(i), and (8)(j) as follows:

37-60-115. Water studies - rules - repeal. (8) Following and leasing pilot projects. (a) After a period of notice and comment, the board may, in consultation with the state engineer and upon consideration of any comments submitted, select the sponsors of up to ~~ten~~ ^{FIFTEEN} pilot projects pursuant to the approval process set forth in ~~paragraph (f) of this subsection (8)~~ ^{SUBSECTION (8)(f) OF THIS SECTION}. The board shall not itself sponsor a pilot project, but the board may provide financial, technical, or other assistance to a pilot project pursuant to the board's other activities and programs. No more than ~~three~~ ^{FIVE} pilot projects may be located in any one of the major river basins, namely: The South Platte river basin; the Arkansas river basin; the Rio Grande river basin; and the Colorado river basin. Each project may last up to ten years in duration and must demonstrate the practice of:

(d) After providing a reasonable opportunity for public comment and consideration of any comments received, the board, in consultation with the state engineer, shall establish criteria and guidelines including at least the following:

(IX) Criteria for selecting pilot projects over a ~~five-year~~ period ending on December 31, ~~2018~~ 2023, to provide a window for potential pilot project sponsors to apply;

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(i) The board, in consultation with the state engineer, shall annually report to the water resources review committee, created in section 37-98-102, or its successor committee, on the reported results of the pilot projects. The board, in consultation with the state engineer, shall provide a final report to the water resources review committee, or its successor committee, by July 1, ~~2029~~ 2034, or the year in which the final pilot project is completed, if before ~~2029~~ 2034.

(j) This subsection (8) is repealed, effective ~~July 1, 2030~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2035.

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 3, 2017