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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0457 Date: February 19, 2018
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Ginal; Ransom Sen. Coram Bill Status: House Health, Insurance, and Environment
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Bill Topic: SUNSET PROCESS WEATHER MODIFICATION

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

Sunset bill. House Bill 18-1147 continues the issuance of permits for specific weather modification operations in the Department of Natural Resources that is set to repeal September 1, 2018. State fiscal impacts include only the continuation of the program's current revenue and expenditures. The program is continued through September 1, 2033.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts Under HB-1147*

Table with 3 columns: Category, FY 2018-19, FY 2019-20. Rows include New Impacts (Revenue, Expenditures) and Continuing Program Impacts (Revenue, Expenditures) with sub-categories like Cash Funds and FTE.

* Table 1 shows the new impacts resulting from changes to the program under the bill, and the continuing impacts from extending the program beyond its current repeal date. Because the bill continues a program without making any substantive changes, there are no new impacts. The continuing program impacts will end if the bill is not passed and the program is allowed to repeal.

Summary of Legislation

This bill continues the issuance of permits for specific weather modification operations in the Department of Natural Resources that is set to repeal September 1, 2018. It also repeals a provision that prohibits weather modification that affects another state if the other state prohibits weather modification that benefits Colorado or its inhabitants.

Background

The Colorado Water Conservation Board in the Department of Natural Resources issues permits to qualified weather modification operations. Weather modification, commonly referred to as cloud seeding, is conducted from November through March. All of the programs currently operating in Colorado are ground-based and designed to enhance snowpack. There are more than 40 entities that participate in cloud seeding including local governments, water districts, and ski areas.

Continuing Program Impacts

Based on its FY 2018-19 budget request, the Department of Natural Resources is expected to have revenue and expenditures of approximately \$13,000 to administer the permitting of weather modification operations. If this bill is enacted, current revenue and expenditures will continue for the program starting in FY 2019-20. If this bill is not enacted, the program will end on September 1, 2019, following a wind-down period, and state revenue and expenditures will decrease starting in FY 2019-20 by the amounts shown in Table 1.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 8, 2018, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 9, 2018, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources