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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0144 Date: March 20, 2018
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Becker K.; Bridges Bill Status: House Transportation
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Bill Topic: REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2050

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

This bill requires a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in Colorado by at least 80 percent by the year 2050 from 2005 levels. This will increase state workload and expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires the statewide emissions of greenhouse gases to be reduced by at least 80 percent by the year 2050 compared to 2005 levels. It also requires Colorado to have statewide programs in place to meet the 80 percent target.

Background

Governor Hickenlooper issued Executive Order D 2017-015, which included a statewide goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 26 percent by 2025, as compared to 2005 levels. Greenhouse gases refer to a number of compounds, such as carbon dioxide, methane, and chlorofluorocarbons, that trap heat in the atmosphere, creating the greenhouse effect.

House Bill 13-1293 created a climate change position in the executive branch. That staff person is currently located under the Colorado Water Conservation Board in the Department of Natural Resources and is responsible for the development and update of a climate action plan with recommendations for addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The plan is required to incorporate previous action plans developed by the state and goals and directives contained in executive orders by the Governor.

The most recent Colorado Climate Plan, released January 31, 2018, was developed collaboratively by a number of state agencies and stakeholders. The state agencies include the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado

Energy Office, the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, the Office of Economic Development and International Trade, and the Department of Local Affairs. The plan includes strategies and recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors of the economy.

State Expenditures

This bill will increase workload and expenditures for state agencies beginning in FY 2018-19 but does not give specific direction to any agency. The fiscal note assumes that the agencies that developed the climate plan will continue to work together with stakeholders to develop strategies and state programs designed to accomplish the 80 percent goal. To implement those strategies and programs, as well as to develop better tools for measuring emissions, the affected agencies are expected to request funding through the annual budget process.

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

Governor
Natural Resources

Information Technology
Public Health and Environment