



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 20-1095

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0718
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Arndt, Sen. Bridges

Date: January 30, 2020
Bill Status: House Rural Affairs
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Bill Topic: LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER ELEMENTS IN MASTER PLANS

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

If a local government's master plan includes a water element, the bill requires that the element include water conservation policies. The bill increases state workload and local government expenditures, at the discretion of local governments.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Summary of Legislation

If a local government's master plan includes a water element, the bill requires that the element include water conservation policies, which may include goals specified in the state water plan, and may also include policies to implement water conservation and other state water plan goals as a condition of development approvals, including subdivisions, planned unit developments, special use permits, and zoning changes.

For municipalities and counties that are required to adopt a master plan that includes a water supply element, water conservation policies must be adopted at the first amending of the master plan occurring after this bill takes effect, but no later than July 1, 2025.

State Expenditures

This bill minimally increases workload in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Local governments frequently review and update their master plans. Should a local government choose to update its master plan to include water conservation goals, DOLA staff time may be needed to provide training and technical assistance to planners on the water supply element of master plans. DNR staff time may also be needed to provide information to local governments about the state water plan and conservation practices. This workload is expected to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Local Government**

Workload and costs will increase for local government that choose to update their master plans to include water conservation goals. This includes staff resources and possible consultant fees to review and update the master plan, posting public notices about proposed changes, and staff time to prepare for and hold public meetings. Special district staff time could also be required to provide water use and supply data for local governments. Local governments already have the ability to include water supply elements in their master plans and master plans are reviewed and updated on a frequent basis; therefore, any increase in costs or workload is expected to be minimal and at the discretion of local governments.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Agriculture  
Municipalities

Counties  
Natural Resources

Local Affairs