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Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 20-1327

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0722
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Valdez D.; Will Sen. Coram

Date: March 6, 2020
Bill Status: House Rural Affairs
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Bill Topic: WATER DIVERSIONS FROM RIO GRANDE BASIN

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

The bill prohibits state agencies from authorizing or assisting with projects that divert water from the Rio Grande basin unless it is demonstrated that the project will not cause certain adverse effects in the basin. It increases state workload on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Summary of Legislation

The bill prohibits state agencies or instrumentalities from authorizing or assisting in any projects that divert water from Water Division 3 (Rio Grande River basin) unless the State Engineer in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) determines that the project will not cause specified adverse effects to major federal and state projects and properties, as listed in the bill.

State Expenditures

The bill increases workload for DNR staff to evaluate projects and provide findings regarding impacts on the projects and properties listed in the bill. The fiscal note assumes that proponents of any new diversion project will be required to provide data and analysis demonstrating the absence of adverse effects to the satisfaction of DNR staff, and that the DNR workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

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. It applies to applications for approval of water diversions taking place on or after the act's effective date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture
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Municipalities

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Local Affairs

Counties
School Districts