



Legislative
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HB 20-1327

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

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

Date: September 14, 2020
Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
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Bill Topic: **WATER DIVERSIONS FROM RIO GRANDE BASIN**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue | <input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity |

The bill would have prohibited 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 would have increased state workload on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. The bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

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. The State Engineer must consider findings provided by the Colorado Water Conservation Board in the DNR. The prohibition does not apply to projects already operating as of the bill's effective date.

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. Should the workload exceed the capacity of existing staff, DNR will seek additional appropriations through the annual budget process.

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House Rural Affairs and Agriculture Committee on March 9, 2020.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture
Municipalities
School Districts

Judicial
Natural Resources

Counties
Local Affairs