

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 22-0178.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

**SENATE BILL 22-028**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Simpson and Sonnenberg**, Bridges, Coram, Donovan, Jaquez Lewis, Buckner, Cooke, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Gonzales, Hisey, Holbert, Kirkmeyer, Lee, Liston, Lundeen, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Scott, Smallwood, Story, Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Roberts and Catlin**, McCormick, McKean, McLachlan

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**Senate Committees**

Agriculture & Natural Resources

**House Committees**

Agriculture, Livestock, & Water  
Appropriations

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE GROUNDWATER COMPACT**  
102 **COMPLIANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FUND, AND, IN CONNECTION**  
103 **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Water Resources Review Committee.** The bill creates the groundwater compact compliance and sustainability fund to help finance groundwater use reduction efforts in the Rio Grande river basin and the Republican river basin, such as efforts to buy and retire irrigation wells and irrigated acreage in the river basins. The Colorado water conservation

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 27, 2022

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
February 17, 2022

SENATE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
February 15, 2022

board administers the fund and can make expenditures from the fund based on recommendations from the board of directors of the Rio Grande water conservation district or the Republican river water conservation district. A conservation district's recommendations must first be approved by the state engineer.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 37-60-134 as  
3 follows:

4           **37-60-134. Groundwater compact compliance and**  
5 **sustainability fund - creation - conservation district**  
6 **recommendations for expenditures - state engineer approval -**  
7 **legislative declaration - transfer - definitions - reports - repeal.**

8 (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY:

9           (a) FINDS AND DETERMINES THAT:

10           (I) GROUNDWATER WELL PUMPING IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE  
11 STATE PROVIDES THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY  
12 BUT CONSEQUENTLY MAY REDUCE THE QUANTITY OF GROUNDWATER IN  
13 THE AQUIFERS AND MAY IMPACT THE HYDROGEOLOGY OF CONNECTED  
14 SURFACE STREAMS, RESULTING IN REDUCED STREAM FLOWS THAT  
15 THREATEN SENIOR WATER RIGHTS AND THE STATE'S COMPLIANCE WITH  
16 INTERSTATE COMPACTS;

17           (II) GROUNDWATER USE IS EXTENSIVE IN FOUR OF THE EIGHT  
18 MAJOR RIVER BASINS IN COLORADO, NAMELY THE RIO GRANDE,  
19 REPUBLICAN, ARKANSAS, AND SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS, AND SUCH  
20 GROUNDWATER USE IS CLOSELY TIED TO THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY IN  
21 THOSE AREAS;

22           (III) PREVIOUS UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT LITIGATION  
23 INITIATED IN NEIGHBORING STATES REGARDING COMPACT COMPLIANCE BY

1 THE RIO GRANDE, ARKANSAS, AND REPUBLICAN RIVER BASINS HAVE  
2 INVOLVED COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE EXTENT OF GROUNDWATER USE  
3 IN THOSE AREAS. SETTLEMENTS OF THE LAWSUITS IN THE RIO GRANDE  
4 AND REPUBLICAN RIVER BASINS RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF WATER  
5 CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO ADDRESS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT  
6 AND CONSERVATION.

7 (IV) DESPITE THE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS' AND THE STATE'S  
8 DILIGENT EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES TO REDUCE GROUNDWATER  
9 USE, INCLUDING THE CREATION OF SIX GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT  
10 SUBDISTRICTS IN THE RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN AND THE USE OF VARIOUS  
11 FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES TO INCENTIVIZE THE  
12 PURCHASE AND RETIREMENT OF IRRIGATED ACREAGE, EXTENSIVE  
13 GROUNDWATER USE IN THE RIO GRANDE AND REPUBLICAN RIVER BASINS  
14 CONTINUES TO THREATEN AQUIFER SUSTAINABILITY, SENIOR WATER  
15 RIGHTS, AND COMPACT COMPLIANCE;

16 (V) AS PART OF THE EFFORTS TO REDUCE GROUNDWATER USE, THE  
17 STATE ENTERED INTO A STIPULATION WITH KANSAS AND NEBRASKA IN  
18 2016 IN WHICH THE STATE AGREED TO RETIRE TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND  
19 ACRES OF IRRIGATED ACREAGE IN THE REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN BY 2029,  
20 AND, PURSUANT TO STANDARDS FOR GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT SET  
21 FORTH IN SECTION 37-92-501 (4), THE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT  
22 SUBDISTRICT NUMBER 1 CREATED IN THE RIO GRANDE WATER  
23 CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS REQUIRED TO RETIRE FORTY THOUSAND ACRES  
24 OF IRRIGATED ACREAGE BY 2029;

25 (VI) TO DATE, ONLY ABOUT THREE THOUSAND ACRES HAVE BEEN  
26 RETIRED IN THE REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN AND ONLY ABOUT THIRTEEN  
27 THOUSAND ACRES HAVE BEEN RETIRED IN THE RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN;

1 AND

2 (VII) IF THE ACREAGE RETIREMENT REQUIREMENTS IN THE RIO  
3 GRANDE AND REPUBLICAN RIVER BASINS ARE NOT MET, THE STATE MIGHT  
4 BE REQUIRED TO MANDATE GROUNDWATER USE REDUCTIONS FOR  
5 PRODUCTIVE FARMLAND IN THE BASINS TO ACHIEVE COMPACT  
6 COMPLIANCE, THUS THREATENING THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIES IN THE  
7 RIVER BASINS; AND

8 (b) DECLARES THAT:

9 (I) GREATER FUNDING IS NEEDED TO INCENTIVIZE THE RETIREMENT  
10 OF IRRIGATION WELLS AND IRRIGATED ACREAGE TO COMPLY WITH THE  
11 GROUNDWATER USE REDUCTION REQUIREMENTS;

12 (II) TO ACCELERATE THE STATE'S PROGRESS IN RETIRING  
13 IRRIGATED ACREAGE IN THE REPUBLICAN AND RIO GRANDE RIVER BASINS  
14 IN ORDER TO MEET STATE-MANDATED DEADLINES, A STATE FUND SHOULD  
15 BE CREATED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND ASSISTANCE FOR THE  
16 BUYING AND RETIRING OF IRRIGATION WELLS AND IRRIGATED ACREAGE IN  
17 THE BASINS;

18 (III) SUCH USE OF STATE MONEY WOULD ALSO HELP PROMOTE  
19 CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCES IN  
20 FURTHERANCE OF THE STATE WATER PLAN DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO  
21 SECTION 37-60-106.3; AND

22 (IV) THE BOARD SHOULD ADMINISTER THE FUND AND DISTRIBUTE  
23 MONEY FROM THE FUND BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF  
24 DIRECTORS OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
25 APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 37-48-103 OR THE BOARD OF  
26 DIRECTORS OF THE REPUBLICAN RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
27 APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 37-50-104, WHICH RECOMMENDATIONS

1 THE STATE ENGINEER SHOULD FIRST REVIEW.

2 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

3 (a) THIS SECTION IS INTENDED TO RESPOND TO THE NEGATIVE  
4 ECONOMIC IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND  
5 RESULTING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL  
6 INCENTIVES FOR THE VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT OF IRRIGATED ACREAGE  
7 AND WELLS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN INTERSTATE COMPACT COMPLIANCE  
8 AND FOR THE PROMOTION OF CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF  
9 GROUNDWATER RESOURCES IN FURTHERANCE OF THE STATE WATER PLAN;

10 (b) MONEY ALLOCATED TO THE STATE PURSUANT TO THE  
11 "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021" AND TRANSFERRED TO THE  
12 GROUNDWATER COMPACT COMPLIANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FUND  
13 CREATED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE USED FOR THE  
14 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION; AND

15 (c) THE COMPACT COMPLIANCE, GROUNDWATER RESOURCE  
16 SUSTAINABILITY, AND GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION PURPOSES  
17 DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION ARE IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

18 (3) (a) THE GROUNDWATER COMPACT COMPLIANCE AND  
19 SUSTAINABILITY FUND IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY AND  
20 CONSISTS OF MONEY THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE OR  
21 TRANSFER TO THE FUND; MONEY THAT THE STATE MAY RECEIVE FROM  
22 FEDERAL SOURCES, INCLUDING FEDERAL SOURCES OF STIMULUS FUNDING  
23 OR RECOVERY FUNDING; AND ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS THAT  
24 THE BOARD SEEKS, ACCEPTS, AND EXPENDS FOR THE PURPOSES SET FORTH  
25 IN THIS SECTION. THE MONEY IN THE FUND IS SUBJECT TO ANNUAL  
26 APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

27 (b) THE BOARD SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND TO IMPLEMENT THE

1 GROUNDWATER COMPACT COMPLIANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY PURPOSES  
2 ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. THE BOARD MAY USE  
3 UP TO FIVE PERCENT OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED TO THE  
4 FUND TO PAY THE BOARD'S DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS, AS WELL AS THE  
5 DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED BY THE RIO GRANDE WATER  
6 CONSERVATION DISTRICT, THE REPUBLICAN RIVER WATER CONSERVATION  
7 DISTRICT, AND THE STATE ENGINEER IN IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION.

8 (4) THE BOARD MAY DISBURSE MONEY FROM THE FUND FOR  
9 PURPOSES RELATED TO COMPACT COMPLIANCE AND GROUNDWATER  
10 RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION, INCLUDING THE  
11 FINANCING OF PROGRAMS DIRECTED AT BUYING AND RETIRING IRRIGATED  
12 ACREAGE TO REDUCE GROUNDWATER USE. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
13 THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE BOARD OF  
14 DIRECTORS OF THE REPUBLICAN RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
15 IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BOARD AND THE STATE ENGINEER, MAY  
16 EACH ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION CRITERIA FOR  
17 DISBURSEMENT OF MONEY FROM THE FUND. EACH BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
18 SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE ANY CRITERIA ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO  
19 THIS SUBSECTION (4).

20 (5) THE BOARD SHALL DISBURSE MONEY FROM THE FUND BASED  
21 ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EITHER THE  
22 RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OR THE REPUBLICAN RIVER  
23 WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, WHICH RECOMMENDATIONS MUST FIRST  
24 BE APPROVED BY THE STATE ENGINEER.

25 (6) IF ALL GROUNDWATER REDUCTION REQUIREMENTS  
26 ESTABLISHED BY FEDERAL OR STATE COURT ORDER OR STIPULATION HAVE  
27 BEEN MET AND ALL STATUTORILY MANDATED GROUNDWATER REDUCTION

1 STANDARDS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED, THIS SECTION WILL BE REPEALED;  
2 EXCEPT THAT THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE REPEALED BEFORE JANUARY 1,  
3 2025. THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IN WRITING OF  
4 THE DATE WHEN THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION (6) HAVE  
5 OCCURRED BY EMAILING THE NOTICE TO  
6 REVISOROFSTATUTES.GA@STATE.CO.US. THE BOARD SHALL ALSO SEND A  
7 COPY OF THE NOTICE TO THE STATE TREASURER WHO, WITHIN THREE DAYS  
8 AFTER RECEIVING THE NOTICE, SHALL TRANSFER ANY MONEY REMAINING  
9 IN THE FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND. THIS SECTION IS REPEALED,  
10 EFFECTIVE UPON THE DATE IDENTIFIED IN THE NOTICE OR, IF THE NOTICE  
11 DOES NOT SPECIFY THAT DATE, UPON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE TO THE  
12 REVISOR OF STATUTES.

13 (7) (a) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE FUND SIXTY MILLION DOLLARS  
15 FROM THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND CREATED IN  
16 SECTION 24-75-228 (2)(a). THE BOARD MAY USE THE MONEY  
17 APPROPRIATED FOR THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION. EXCEPT AS  
18 PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (7)(b) OF THIS SECTION, ANY MONEY  
19 APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND IN THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR THAT IS  
20 UNOBLIGATED OR UNEXPENDED AT THE END OF THE STATE FISCAL YEAR  
21 REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE BY THE BOARD IN SUBSEQUENT  
22 STATE FISCAL YEARS WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION, SUBJECT TO THE  
23 REQUIREMENTS FOR OBLIGATING AND EXPENDING MONEY RECEIVED  
24 UNDER THE "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", AS SPECIFIED IN  
25 SECTION 24-75-226 (4)(d).

26 (b) ON AUGUST 15, 2024, IF THERE IS UNOBLIGATED MONEY IN THE  
27 FUND, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL:

1 (I) IF THE AMOUNT OF UNOBLIGATED MONEY IS TWENTY MILLION  
2 DOLLARS OR LESS, TRANSFER ALL OF THE UNOBLIGATED MONEY TO THE  
3 WATER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT; OR

4 (II) IF THE AMOUNT OF UNOBLIGATED MONEY IS GREATER THAN  
5 TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS, TRANSFER TO THE WATER PLAN  
6 IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS.

7 (8) (a) THE BOARD AND ANY PERSON THAT RECEIVES MONEY FROM  
8 THE BOARD PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION OR SECTION 37-60-123.3 (3)  
9 SHALL COMPLY WITH THE COMPLIANCE, REPORTING, RECORD-KEEPING,  
10 AND PROGRAM EVALUATION REQUIREMENT ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE  
11 OF STATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN  
12 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-75-226 (5).

13 (b) COMMENCING IN 2023, AND FOR EACH YEAR THEREAFTER  
14 THROUGH 2027, AS PART OF ITS ANNUAL PRESENTATIONS TO THE GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY UNDER THE "STATE MEASUREMENT FOR ACCOUNTABLE,  
16 RESPONSIVE, AND TRANSPARENT (SMART) GOVERNMENT ACT", PART 2  
17 OF ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 2, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
18 SHALL REPORT ON HOW MUCH MONEY THE BOARD HAS EXPENDED UNDER  
19 THIS SECTION AND IF THE BOARD EXPECTS TO EXPEND THE FULL SIXTY  
20 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION OR, IF  
21 MONEY IS TRANSFERRED TO THE WATER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT  
22 IN 2024, IF THE BOARD IS ON TRACK TO EXPEND THE FULL SIXTY MILLION  
23 DOLLARS FOR THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION AND THE  
24 PURPOSES SET FORTH IN SECTION 37-60-123.3 (3).

25 (9) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
26 REQUIRES:

27 (a) "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021" MEANS THE FEDERAL

1 "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", PUB. L. 117-2, AS THE ACT MAY  
2 BE SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED.

3 (b) "COVID-19" MEANS THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE CAUSED BY  
4 THE SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONAVIRUS 2, ALSO  
5 KNOWN AS SARS-CoV-2.

6 (c) "FUND" MEANS THE GROUNDWATER COMPACT COMPLIANCE  
7 AND SUSTAINABILITY FUND CREATED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS  
8 SECTION.

9 (d) "WATER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT" MEANS THE WATER  
10 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT CREATED IN SECTION 37-60-123.3  
11 (3)(b).

12 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-60-123.3, **add** (3)  
13 as follows:

14 **37-60-123.3. Water plan implementation cash fund - created**  
15 **- water plan implementation account - created - legislative**  
16 **declaration - reporting - repeal.** (3) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS  
17 AND DECLARES THAT:

18 (I) THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS INTENDED TO RESPOND TO THE  
19 NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AS  
20 DEFINED IN SECTION 37-60-134 (9)(b), AND THE RESULTING PUBLIC  
21 HEALTH EMERGENCY BY PROVIDING GRANT MONEY TO PROMOTE PROJECTS  
22 AND ACTIONS THAT ADVANCE PROGRESS TOWARD ACCOMPLISHING THE  
23 CRITICAL ACTIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE STATE WATER PLAN;

24 (II) MONEY ALLOCATED TO THE STATE PURSUANT TO THE  
25 "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
26 37-60-134 (9)(a), AND TRANSFERRED TO THE WATER PLAN  
27 IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT MAY BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS

1 SUBSECTION (3); AND

2 (III) THE WATER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN  
3 THIS SUBSECTION (3) ARE IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

4 (b) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE WATER PLAN  
5 IMPLEMENTATION CASH FUND THE WATER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION  
6 ACCOUNT, REFERRED TO IN THIS SUBSECTION (3) AS THE "ACCOUNT". THE  
7 MONEY IN THE ACCOUNT IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE BOARD  
8 TO USE FOR THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION (3).

9 (c) THE ACCOUNT CONSISTS OF ALL MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE  
10 ACCOUNT ON AUGUST 15, 2024, FROM THE GROUNDWATER COMPACT  
11 COMPLIANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FUND CREATED IN SECTION 37-60-134  
12 (3)(a).

13 (d) THE BOARD AND ANY PERSON THAT RECEIVES MONEY FROM  
14 THE BOARD PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) SHALL COMPLY WITH THE  
15 COMPLIANCE, REPORTING, RECORD-KEEPING, AND PROGRAM EVALUATION  
16 REQUIREMENT ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND  
17 BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION  
18 24-75-226 (5).

19 (e) THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,  
20 2027.

21 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2022-23 state fiscal  
22 year, \$60,000,000 is appropriated to the groundwater compact compliance  
23 and sustainability fund created in section 37-60-134 (2)(a), C.R.S. This  
24 appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created  
25 in section 24-75-228 (2)(a), C.R.S., and is of money the state received  
26 from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. The Department  
27 of Natural Resources is responsible for the accounting related to this

1 appropriation.

2 (2) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$60,000,000 is appropriated  
3 to the department of natural resources for use by the Colorado water  
4 conservation board. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds from  
5 the groundwater compact compliance and sustainability fund under  
6 subsection (1) of this section. To implement this act, the board may use  
7 this appropriation for compact compliance and groundwater resource  
8 sustainability and conservation pursuant to section 37-60-134, C.R.S. Any  
9 money appropriated in this section not expended prior to July 1, 2023, is  
10 further appropriated to the board from July 1, 2023, through December  
11 30, 2024, for the same purpose.

12 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
13 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.