



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 22-0780	Date:	February 9, 2022
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Sonnenberg; Donovan Rep. Holtorf	Bill Status:	Senate Agriculture
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Bill Topic: **PRIORITIZE WATER STORAGE PROJECTS IN THE S PLATTE 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 requires the Colorado Water Conservation Board to prioritize projects that increase or improve water storage in the South Platte River Basin in order to reduce reliance on transmountain diversions. The bill minimally increases workload in the Department of Natural Resources.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is authorized to finance water projects that will increase the beneficial consumptive use of the state's undeveloped interstate compact-entitled waters through the CWCB Construction Fund. The CWCB applies established criteria to prioritize expenditures and make recommendations to the General Assembly for water projects to be funded each year through legislation.

This bill amends established criteria to require the CWCB to prioritize projects that increase or improve water storage in the South Platte River Basin in order to reduce reliance on transmountain diversions.

State Expenditures

The bill requires the CWCB to prioritize funding recommendations for storage projects in the South Platte River Basin over projects in other basins. There are eight major river basins in Colorado and nine interstate compact agreements. Because the number and size of applications in the future is unknown, it is not possible to estimate the future recommendations of the board or legislative action of the General Assembly. The bill will minimally increase workload for the CWCB to update internal policies, which can be accommodated within existing resources.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources