

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 23-0514.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

SENATE BILL 23-092

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

**Simpson and Hansen**, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Exum, Fenberg, Fields, Gonzales, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Marchman, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Priola, Roberts, Will, Winter F.

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**McCormick and Soper**,

Senate Committees

Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTARY EMISSION REDUCTIONS  
102 IN AGRICULTURE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN  
103 APPROPRIATION.

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>.)*

In support of the use of agrivoltaics, which is the integration of solar energy generation facilities with agricultural activities, **section 2** of the bill authorizes the agricultural drought and climate resilience office (office) to award grants for new or ongoing demonstration or research projects that demonstrate or study the use of agrivoltaics. On or before

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

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 24, 2023

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 21, 2023

October 1, 2023, the office is required to convene a stakeholder group to advise on whether the office should impose any operational requirements for agrivoltaic projects that apply for grants.

**Section 4** authorizes the Colorado water conservation board (board) to finance a project to study the feasibility of using aquavoltaics, which are solar energy generation facilities placed over, or floating on, irrigation canals or reservoirs.

**Section 1** requires the director of the division of parks and wildlife to consult on the impacts on wildlife of:

- Any research projects for which the office awards money to study the use of agrivoltaics; and
- The project that the board finances to study the feasibility of using aquavoltaics in the state.

**Section 5** amends the statutory definition of "solar energy facility", used in determining the valuation of public utilities for property tax purposes, to include agrivoltaics and aquavoltaics.

**Section 3** requires the commissioner of agriculture or the commissioner's designee (commissioner), in consultation with the Colorado energy office, the air quality control commission, and an institution of higher education with expertise in climate change mitigation, adaptation benefits, and other environmental benefits related to agricultural research, to examine greenhouse gas reduction and carbon sequestration opportunities in the agricultural sector, including the use of dry digesters and the potential for creating and offering a certified greenhouse gas offset program and credit instruments in the agricultural sector.

**Section 3** requires the commissioner to submit a progress report on the study to the general assembly on or before October 1, 2024, and a final report, including any recommendations, on or before October 1, 2025.

**Section 3** also authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules to implement the recommendations, but requires that any greenhouse gas offset program or other greenhouse gas reduction and carbon sequestration program or mechanism established in rule not mandate participation by agricultural producers.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-1-110, **add** (9) as  
3 follows:

4           **33-1-110. Duties of the director of the division - habitat**  
5 **partnership council, program, committee - created - duties.** (9) THE

1 DIRECTOR OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE SHALL PROVIDE CONSULTATION  
2 REGARDING THE IMPACTS OF THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH PROJECTS ON  
3 WILDLIFE:

4 (a) RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR WHICH THE AGRICULTURAL DROUGHT  
5 AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE OFFICE AWARDS MONEY TO STUDY THE USE OF  
6 AGRIVOLTAICS PURSUANT TO SECTION 35-1-114; AND

7 (b) A FEASIBILITY STUDY THROUGH WHICH THE COLORADO WATER  
8 CONSERVATION BOARD, CREATED IN SECTION 37-60-102, STUDIES THE USE  
9 OF AQUAVOLTAICS PURSUANT TO SECTION 37-60-115 (12).

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-1-114, **amend**  
11 (1)(c)(II), (2), and (3); and add (4) and (5) as follows:

12 **35-1-114. Agricultural drought and climate resilience office -**  
13 **creation - grants for agrivoltaic demonstration and research projects**  
14 **- rules - definitions. (1) Legislative declaration. The general assembly**  
15 **hereby:**

16 (c) Declares that:

17 (II) The agricultural drought and climate resilience office can best  
18 address and mitigate agricultural climate-related issues on a wide scale by  
19 providing support to and assisting bona fide agricultural producers in  
20 implementing practices that minimize the impacts of climate change.

21 (2) Office created. (a) (I) There is hereby created in the  
22 department the agricultural drought and climate resilience office. ~~referred~~  
23 ~~to in this section as the "office"~~. The office may provide voluntary  
24 technical assistance, nonregulatory programs, and incentives, INCLUDING  
25 GRANTS, that increase the ability to anticipate, prepare for, mitigate, adapt  
26 to, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to  
27 drought or the climate.

1 (II) IN AWARDING GRANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
2 COMMISSIONER'S RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS  
3 SECTION, THE OFFICE SHALL GIVE STRONG CONSIDERATION TO GRANT  
4 APPLICATIONS THAT PROPOSE USING GRANT MONEY TO CONDUCT A NEW  
5 OR ONGOING DEMONSTRATION OR RESEARCH PROJECT AS A MEANS TO  
6 STUDY THE POTENTIAL, BENEFITS, AND TRADEOFFS OF AGRIVOLTAICS IN  
7 THE STATE. ANY AGRIVOLTAIC STUDY AWARDED A GRANT PURSUANT TO  
8 THIS SUBSECTION (2)(a)(II) MUST INCLUDE FINDINGS ON THE ADDITIONAL  
9 COSTS, INCLUDING THE ADDITIONAL CAPITAL AND ONGOING MAINTENANCE  
10 COSTS, FOR THE USE OF AGRIVOLTAICS AS COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL  
11 PHOTOVOLTAICS. THE ADDITIONAL COSTS MUST BE QUANTIFIED ON BOTH  
12 A DOLLAR-PER-MEGAWATT AND A DOLLAR-PER-MEGAWATT-HOUR BASIS.

13 (b) The office shall advise the commissioner, the Colorado  
14 agricultural value-added development board created in section 35-75-203,  
15 other state agencies, and the governor on the impact to agriculture of  
16 drought and climate policies and programs.

17 (c) The commissioner shall appoint the head of the office.

18 (3) (a) **Rules.** The commissioner may promulgate rules necessary  
19 for the administration of the office's assistance, programs, and incentives,  
20 including grants, CONSISTENT WITH THIS SUBSECTION (3). Before  
21 promulgating the rules, the commissioner shall convene a stakeholder  
22 group, including representatives of organizations whose membership  
23 consists of agricultural producers engaged in the production of the top ten  
24 agricultural commodities produced in Colorado, and members of the state  
25 conservation board created in section 35-70-103 (1)(a), AND  
26 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY. The  
27 stakeholder group shall advise the commissioner as to the needs of the

1 agriculture industry to respond to and mitigate the impacts of climate  
2 change on agricultural production For the purpose of this section, "bona  
3 fide agricultural producer" means an agricultural producer that receives  
4 a majority of the producer's annual income from agriculture, an  
5 agricultural producer that spends more than one thousand forty hours per  
6 year engaged in agricultural production, or a Colorado business that  
7 processes agricultural products AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE SOLAR ENERGY  
8 DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY ON PROVIDING FEASIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR  
9 PRODUCING ELECTRICITY ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS WHILE CONTRIBUTING  
10 ECOLOGICAL AND AGRICULTURAL BENEFITS.

11 (b) **Assistance, programs, and incentives.** (I) Except for a  
12 program, ASSISTANCE, INCENTIVE, or support administered by the office  
13 to address immediate needs as a result of disaster, including wildfire and  
14 drought, or a program that was in existence on January 1, 2021,

15 (a) a program, ASSISTANCE, INCENTIVE, OR SUPPORT administered  
16 by the office must be designed to benefit bona fide agricultural producers  
17 actively engaged in agriculture INCLUDE NEW OR ONGOING  
18 DEMONSTRATION OR RESEARCH PROJECTS TO DEMONSTRATE OR STUDY  
19 THE USE OF AGRIVOLTAICS TO:

20 (A) HELP PREPARE FOR AND MITIGATE THE IMPACTS THAT CLIMATE  
21 CHANGE OR DROUGHT HAVE ON AGRICULTURE;

22 (B) REDUCE ENERGY COSTS IN AGRICULTURE;

23 (C) IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC RESILIENCE OF AGRICULTURAL  
24 PRODUCERS;

25 (D) MINIMIZE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF  
26 PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY PRODUCTION FACILITIES ON SOIL HEALTH, NATIVE  
27 VEGETATION, STATE AND FEDERAL LISTED SPECIES, WILDLIFE MIGRATION

1 CORRIDORS, AND THE SPECIES, HABITATS, AND ECOSYSTEMS THAT ARE OF  
2 THE GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED; AND

3 (E) PROVIDE OTHER STATEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS, AS  
4 IDENTIFIED BY THE OFFICE.

5 (II) Grants awarded by the office must pay for implementation of  
6 practices to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change or drought  
7 ON AGRICULTURE or to provide direct adaptation support for impacted  
8 agricultural communities, including mental health resources, conflict  
9 resolution assistance, and risk-management guidance. A grant award may  
10 pay no more than five percent of administrative expenses incurred by a  
11 bona fide AN agricultural producer to implement the practices.

12 ~~(b)~~ (III) The department shall, at least thirty days before opening  
13 the grant application process, make available, on its website, information  
14 related to the grant program available to bona fide agricultural producers.

15 ~~(c)~~ (IV) A grant authorized pursuant to this section must receive  
16 final approval by the commission before a final award can be issued. ~~and~~

17 ~~(d)~~ (V) The department shall post on its website all applications  
18 for grant awards. Within fifteen days after awarding a grant, the  
19 department shall post on its website the name of the individual or entity  
20 receiving a grant, the amount of the grant awarded, the project or projects  
21 to be funded by the grant, and the duration of the grant award.

22 ==

23 (4) Task force. (a) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, THE  
24 OFFICE SHALL CONVENE AN AGRIVOLTAICS TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A  
25 STUDY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, THE COLORADO  
26 ENERGY OFFICE CREATED IN SECTION 24-38.5-101 (1), AND THE DIVISION  
27 OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1 CREATED IN SECTION 33-9-104 (1) TO EVALUATE THE OPPORTUNITIES AND  
2 CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH AGRIVOLTAICS IN THE STATE, INCLUDING:

3 (I) THE TECHNICAL, OPERATIONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, OR  
4 FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO AN EXPANSION OF THE ADOPTION OF  
5 AGRIVOLTAICS IN THE STATE; AND

6 (II) POTENTIAL STATE-LEVEL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO  
7 MINIMIZE THE BARRIERS.

8 (b) THE TASK FORCE MUST INCLUDE ONE OR MORE  
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

10 (I) AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND AGRICULTURAL  
11 ASSOCIATIONS;

12 (II) UTILITIES;

13 (III) DEVELOPERS, OWNERS, OPERATORS, OR OTHER BUSINESSES  
14 CRITICAL TO THE CREATION OR MANAGEMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY  
15 FACILITIES;

16 (IV) A RESEARCH INSTITUTION OR NATIONAL LAB, LOCATED IN THE  
17 STATE, THAT HAS AGRIVOLTAIC EXPERIENCE;

18 (V) ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE STATE;  
19 AND

20 (VI) INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS.

21 (c) ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 15, 2024, THE TASK FORCE SHALL  
22 PRESENT THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY, INCLUDING ANY  
23 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION, TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE  
24 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND NATURAL  
25 RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL  
26 RESOURCES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

27 (5) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE

1 REQUIRES:

2 (a) "AGRIVOLTAICS" MEANS ONE OR MORE SOLAR ENERGY  
3 GENERATION FACILITIES DIRECTLY INTEGRATED WITH AGRICULTURAL  
4 ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CROP PRODUCTION, GRAZING, ANIMAL  
5 HUSBANDRY, APIARIES, COVER CROPPING TO IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH OR  
6 INSECT HABITAT BENEFITS OR CARBON SEQUESTRATION, OR PRODUCTION  
7 OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES FOR SALE IN THE RETAIL OR WHOLESALE  
8 MARKET.

9 == ==  
10 (b) "OFFICE" MEANS THE AGRICULTURAL DROUGHT AND CLIMATE  
11 RESILIENCE OFFICE CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

12 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 35-1-119** as  
13 follows:

14 **35-1-119. Study of greenhouse gas reduction and carbon**  
15 **sequestration opportunities in agriculture and agricultural land**  
16 **management - definitions - reporting - rules.** (1) (a) (I) IN  
17 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (1)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
18 COMMISSIONER OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE SHALL CONDUCT A  
19 STUDY TO EXAMINE GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION AND CARBON  
20 SEQUESTRATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND IN  
21 AGRICULTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT IN THE STATE, INCLUDING:

22 (A) SOIL HEALTH MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, INCLUDING COVER  
23 CROPPING, MANURE MANAGEMENT, SOIL AMENDMENTS, ROTATIONAL  
24 GRAZING, RANGELAND MANAGEMENT, LOW- AND NO-TILL PRACTICES, AND  
25 HEDGE GROWS;

26 (B) THE USE OF DRY DIGESTERS; AND

27 (C) AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE POTENTIAL FOR CREATING AND



1 OFFERING A CERTIFIED GREENHOUSE GAS OFFSET PROGRAM AND CREDIT  
2 INSTRUMENTS TO PROVIDE FUNGIBLE GREENHOUSE GAS OFFSETS FOR  
3 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND IN AGRICULTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT.

4 (II) THE COMMISSIONER OR COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE SHALL  
5 CONDUCT THE STUDY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COLORADO ENERGY  
6 OFFICE CREATED IN SECTION 24-38.5-101, THE AIR QUALITY CONTROL  
7 COMMISSION CREATED IN SECTION 25-7-104 (1), THE NATURAL AND  
8 WORKING LANDS TASK FORCE CONVENED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
9 NATURAL RESOURCES, THE COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE, AND AN  
10 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITH EXPERTISE IN CLIMATE CHANGE  
11 MITIGATION, ADAPTATION BENEFITS, AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL  
12 BENEFITS RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

13 (b) (I) ANY CERTIFIED GREENHOUSE GAS OFFSET PROGRAM AND  
14 CREDIT INSTRUMENTS OFFERED MUST REFLECT REAL, ADDITIONAL,  
15 QUANTIFIABLE, PERMANENT, VERIFIABLE, AND ENFORCEABLE REDUCTIONS  
16 IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THAT ARE EQUIVALENT TO THE OFFSETS  
17 PROVIDED AND MUST NOT REQUIRE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS'  
18 PARTICIPATION.

19 (II) GREENHOUSE GAS OFFSETS DEVELOPED FOR AGRICULTURAL  
20 PRODUCERS AND IN AGRICULTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT IN ACCORDANCE  
21 WITH THIS SECTION:

22 (A) MAY BE INCORPORATED INTO THE AIR QUALITY CONTROL  
23 COMMISSION'S RULES, INCLUDING RULES ADOPTED UNDER SECTION  
24 25-7-105 (1)(e), AND, SPECIFICALLY, RULES CONCERNING COORDINATION  
25 WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN,  
26 AND THE CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED UNDER, SECTION 25-7-105 (1)(e)(V);

27 (B) MAY BE USED AS COMPLIANCE INSTRUMENTS BY A SOURCE

1 REGULATED UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 25, WITH EMISSION REDUCTION  
2 OBLIGATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE AIR QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION  
3 THAT ENSURE THAT THE ANNUAL, OVERALL, ABSOLUTE EMISSIONS FROM  
4 THE SOURCE, SECTOR, OR GROUP OF SOURCES DECLINE CONSISTENT WITH  
5 THE STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION GOALS SET FORTH  
6 IN SECTION 25-7-102 (2)(g), PROVIDED THAT THE SOURCE IS LOCATED IN  
7 A DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITY. THE COMMISSION SHALL  
8 ESTABLISH BY RULE AN ANNUAL, ABSOLUTE EMISSION REDUCTION  
9 OBLIGATION SPECIFIC TO THE SOURCE.

10 (C) MUST NOT BE AVAILABLE AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR EMISSIONS  
11 REDUCTION COMPLIANCE UNDER SECTION 25-7-105 (1)(e)(V) UNLESS THE  
12 COMMISSION HAS ADOPTED RULES ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL, ABSOLUTE  
13 EMISSION REDUCTION OBLIGATION FOR THE RELEVANT SECTOR THAT IS  
14 CONSISTENT WITH THE STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION  
15 GOALS.

16 (c) THE STUDY MUST IDENTIFY POLICY MECHANISMS TO AVOID THE  
17 IMPACTS THAT THE USE OF GREENHOUSE GAS OFFSETS BY REGULATED  
18 SOURCES COULD HAVE ON DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES.

19 (2) THE COMMISSIONER OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE SHALL  
20 SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

21 (a) A REPORT SUMMARIZING THE PROGRESS ON THE STUDY ON OR  
22 BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2024; AND

23 (b) A FINAL REPORT ON THE STUDY ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1,  
24 2025. THE FINAL REPORT MUST INCLUDE ANY LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY,  
25 OR OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING  
26 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION  
27 OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND IN AGRICULTURAL

1 LAND MANAGEMENT IN THE STATE.

2 (3) (a) (I) UPON CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY, WITH REGARD TO ANY  
3 RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE STUDY THAT DO NOT REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE  
4 CHANGES, THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COLORADO  
5 ENERGY OFFICE AND THE AIR QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION, MAY ADOPT  
6 RULES TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

7 (II) ANY RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3)(a)  
8 MUST NOT MANDATE PARTICIPATION BY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN  
9 ANY GREENHOUSE GAS OFFSET PROGRAM OR ANY OTHER GREENHOUSE GAS  
10 REDUCTION AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROGRAMS OR MECHANISMS  
11 DEVELOPED IN RULE, BUT THE RULES MAY PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO  
12 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS FOR THEIR VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN ANY  
13 PROGRAM OR MECHANISM DEVELOPED IN RULE PURSUANT TO THIS  
14 SUBSECTION (3)(a).

15 (b) IF THE COMMISSIONER ADOPTS RULES PURSUANT TO  
16 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE A  
17 SUMMARY OF THE RULES AS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S REGULATORY  
18 AGENDA THAT IT FILES PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203 (4) AND THAT IS  
19 INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S "SMART ACT" PRESENTATION THAT  
20 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS THE ADOPTION OF THE RULES.

21 (4) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION REQUIRES THE AIR QUALITY  
22 CONTROL COMMISSION TO ADOPT RULES FOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION  
23 OFFSETS OR CREDIT MECHANISMS OR TO ACCEPT ANY GREENHOUSE GAS  
24 EMISSION OFFSETS OR CREDIT MECHANISMS AS COMPLIANCE INSTRUMENTS  
25 FOR EMISSION REDUCTION COMPLIANCE OR VERIFICATION.

26 (5) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
27 REQUIRES:

1 (a) "ANAEROBIC DIGESTER" MEANS A SEALED, OXYGEN-FREE TANK  
2 INTO WHICH FEEDSTOCK, SUCH AS FOOD WASTE, ANIMAL MANURE, OR  
3 WASTEWATER SLUDGE, IS PLACED FOR ANAEROBIC DIGESTION BY  
4 MICROORGANISMS. AN ANAEROBIC DIGESTER CAN BE USED AS A MEANS OF  
5 WASTE DISPOSAL OR ENERGY PRODUCTION.

6 (b) "DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES" HAS THE  
7 MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 24-4-109 (2)(b)(II).

8 (c) "DRY DIGESTER" MEANS AN ANAEROBIC DIGESTER THAT  
9 PROCESSES FEEDSTOCK WITH A LOW MOISTURE CONTENT.

10 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-60-115, **add** (12)  
11 as follows:

12 **37-60-115. Water studies - rules - reports - definitions - repeal.**

13 (12) (a) Study. (I) THE BOARD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE  
14 ENGINEER, THE COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE, AND THE INSTITUTE, SHALL  
15 CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF THE USE OF  
16 AQUAVOLTAICS AS A MEANS OF INCREASING THE BENEFICIAL  
17 CONSUMPTIVE USE OF STATE WATERS BY REDUCING EVAPORATION FROM,  
18 AND LOWERING TEMPERATURES OF, IRRIGATION CANALS AND RESERVOIRS  
19 UPON WHICH AQUAVOLTAIC INFRASTRUCTURE IS PLACED. IN STUDYING  
20 THE FEASIBILITY OF USING AQUAVOLTAICS, THE BOARD SHALL ENSURE  
21 THAT ANY AQUAVOLTAIC INFRASTRUCTURE USED IN THE STUDY DOES NOT  
22 INTERFERE WITH INSTREAM FLOWS, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 37-92-102  
23 (3), OR WITH WATER RIGHTS OWNERS' ABILITY TO DIVERT WATER FOR  
24 BENEFICIAL USE.

25 (II) THE BOARD MAY CONTRACT WITH THE INSTITUTE, A THIRD  
26 PARTY, OR BOTH, TO DESIGN, CARRY OUT, AND ANALYZE THE RESULTS OF  
27 THE STUDY REQUIRED IN THIS SUBSECTION (12)(a). IF THE BOARD DEEMS

1 APPROPRIATE, THE STUDY MUST BE CONDUCTED IN CONSIDERATION OF  
2 AND RELIANCE ON RELEVANT STUDIES COMPLETED IN THE STATE AND  
3 NATIONALLY.

4 (b) Report. ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, THE BOARD SHALL  
5 SUBMIT A REPORT OF THE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY TO  
6 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND NATURAL  
7 RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL  
8 RESOURCES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

9 (c) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (12), UNLESS THE CONTEXT  
10 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

11 (I) "AQUAVOLTAICS" MEANS ONE OR MORE SOLAR ENERGY  
12 GENERATION FACILITIES PLACED OVER, OR FLOATING ON, IRRIGATION  
13 CANALS OR RESERVOIRS IN THE STATE.

14 (II) "BENEFICIAL USE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION  
15 37-92-103 (4).

16 (III) "DIVERT" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION  
17 37-92-103 (7).

18 (IV) "INSTITUTE" MEANS THE COLORADO WATER INSTITUTE  
19 CREATED IN SECTION 23-31-801.

20 (V) "WATER RIGHT" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION  
21 37-92-103 (12).

22 (VI) "WATERS OF THE STATE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN  
23 SECTION 37-92-103 (13).

24 SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-3-122, add (3)  
25 and (4) as follows:

26 39-3-122. Agricultural equipment used in production of  
27 agricultural products - CEA facilities - exemption - definition. (3) ON

1 AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024, BUT BEFORE JANUARY 2, 2029, PERSONAL  
2 PROPERTY IS EXEMPTED FROM THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF PROPERTY  
3 TAX IF THE PROPERTY IS MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT THAT IS PART OF A  
4 SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM THAT IS USED FOR AGRIVOLTAICS,  
5 AND IF THE PROPERTY:

6 (a) INCORPORATES NOVEL DESIGNS, TECHNOLOGIES, OR  
7 CONFIGURATIONS THAT SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND THE POTENTIAL FOR  
8 AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING BY:

9 (I) ELEVATING THE BOTTOM EDGE HEIGHT OF THE PANELS AT  
10 LEAST SIX FEET ABOVE THE GROUND;

11 (II) UTILIZING TRANSLUCENT PANELS;

12 (III) INCORPORATING ALTERNATIVE SOLAR TRACKING ALGORITHMS  
13 THAT ARE TAILORED TO OPTIMIZE VEGETATIVE GROWTH; OR

14 (IV) INCORPORATING EXTENDED ROW OR PANEL SPACING IN A  
15 MANNER THAT ENABLES AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES;

16 (b) IS CONSTRUCTED IN A MANNER THAT MINIMIZES SOIL  
17 COMPACTION UNDERNEATH AND IN BETWEEN PANELS; AND

18 (c) IS CONSTRUCTED TO INCORPORATE DESIGN STRATEGIES THAT  
19 MINIMIZE THE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PHOTOVOLTAIC  
20 ENERGY PRODUCTION FACILITIES ON ECOSYSTEMS, NATIVE VEGETATION,  
21 STATE AND FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES, WILDLIFE MIGRATION CORRIDORS,  
22 AND THE SPECIES, HABITATS, AND ECOSYSTEMS OF GREATEST  
23 CONSERVATION NEED.

24 (4) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "AGRIVOLTAICS" HAS THE MEANING  
25 SET FORTH IN SECTION 35-1-114 (5)(a).

26 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-4-101, **amend**  
27 (3.5) as follows:

1           **39-4-101. Definitions.** As used in this article 4, unless the context  
2 otherwise requires:

3           (3.5) (a) "Solar energy facility" means a new facility first placed  
4 in production on or after January 1, 2009, that uses real and personal  
5 property, including ~~but not limited to~~ one or more solar energy devices,  
6 as defined in section 38-32.5-100.3 (2), leaseholds, and easements, to  
7 generate and, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3.5)(b) OF THIS  
8 SECTION, deliver to the interconnection meter any source of electrical,  
9 thermal, or mechanical energy in excess of two megawatts by harnessing  
10 the radiant energy of the sun, including any connected device for which  
11 the primary purpose is to store energy, and that is not primarily designed  
12 to supply electricity for consumption on site.

13           (b) "SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY" INCLUDES FACILITIES FOR  
14 AGRIVOLTAICS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 35-1-114 (5)(a), AND FOR  
15 AQUAVOLTAICS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 37-60-115 (12)(c)(I), THAT  
16 DELIVER TO THE INTERCONNECTION METER ELECTRICAL ENERGY IN EXCESS  
17 OF FIVE HUNDRED KILOWATTS

18           **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-27-102.5, **add**  
19 (11) as follows:

20           **39-27-102.5. Exemptions on tax imposed - ex-tax purchases -**  
21 **definitions - repeal.** (11) (a) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (11), UNLESS  
22 THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

23           (I) "BIODIESEL" MEANS A FUEL COMPRISED OF MONO-ALKYL  
24 ESTERS OF LONG-CHAIN FATTY ACIDS GENERALLY DERIVED FROM  
25 VEGETABLE OILS OR ANIMAL FATS, DESIGNATED AS B100, AND MEETS THE  
26 REQUIREMENTS OF ASTM D6751, WHICH IS THE "STANDARD  
27 SPECIFICATION FOR BIODIESEL FUEL BLEND STOCK (B100) FOR MIDDLE

1 DISTILLATE FUELS".

2 (II) "RENEWABLE DIESEL" MEANS A HYDROCARBON DIESEL  
3 VEHICLE FUEL PRODUCED FROM NONPETROLEUM RENEWABLE RESOURCES  
4 SUCH AS VEGETABLE OILS, INCLUDING SOY, CORN, AND CANOLA, ANIMAL  
5 OR POULTRY FAT, USED COOKING OIL, MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, AND  
6 WASTEWATER SLUDGE AND OILS. "RENEWABLE DIESEL" MEETS OR  
7 EXCEEDS ALL MINIMUM STANDARDS SET FORTH IN ASTM D975, WHICH IS  
8 THE "STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR DIESEL FUEL". "RENEWABLE DIESEL"  
9 IS NOT BIODIESEL.

10 (b) (I) ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH DECEMBER 31,  
11 2029, BIODIESEL AND RENEWABLE DIESEL BLENDS IN AMOUNTS OF FIVE  
12 PERCENT (B5) BIODIESEL OR RENEWABLE DIESEL OR GREATER ARE EXEMPT  
13 FROM THE EXCISE TAX IMPOSED PURSUANT TO THIS PART 1. IN THE CASE  
14 OF A BLENDED SPECIAL FUEL THAT CONTAINS BIODIESEL OR RENEWABLE  
15 DIESEL, THE TAX IMPOSED UNDER SECTION 39-27-102 (1)(a)(II)(B) IS  
16 REDUCED BY THE PROPORTION THAT THE GALLONS OF BIODIESEL OR  
17 RENEWABLE DIESEL BEAR TO THE TOTAL GALLONS OF BLENDED SPECIAL  
18 FUEL.

19 (II) A LICENSED FUEL DISTRIBUTOR THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR  
20 PAYING STATE EXCISE TAX ON THE UNDERLYING DIESEL PORTION OF THE  
21 FUEL IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE TAX EXEMPTION SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION  
22 (11)(b)

23 (c) (I) THE VOLUME OF BIODIESEL OR RENEWABLE DIESEL MUST BE  
24 IDENTIFIED ON A SALES INVOICE FOR EACH SALES TRANSACTION AND MUST  
25 CONTINUE TO BE IDENTIFIED ON EACH SALES INVOICE UNTIL THE BLENDED  
26 BIODIESEL OR BLENDED RENEWABLE DIESEL FUEL PRODUCT IS SOLD TO THE  
27 END USER.



1           (II) A SALES INVOICE MUST:

2           (A) IDENTIFY A BIODIESEL, RENEWABLE DIESEL, BIODIESEL BLEND,  
3 OR RENEWABLE DIESEL BLEND BY A COMMONLY ACCEPTED COMMERCIAL  
4 OR INDUSTRY NAME FOR THE BLENDED SPECIAL FUEL PRODUCT BEING  
5 SOLD, SUCH AS B100 FOR BIODIESEL OR B20 FOR A BIODIESEL BLEND THAT  
6 CONTAINS EIGHTY PERCENT TAXABLE PETROLEUM-BASED DIESEL FUEL  
7 AND TWENTY PERCENT BIODIESEL;

8           (B) LIST THE VOLUME IN GALLONS, ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST  
9 WHOLE GALLON, OR THE PERCENTAGE, ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST WHOLE  
10 PERCENTAGE, OF THE BIODIESEL OR RENEWABLE DIESEL OR TAXABLE  
11 PETROLEUM-BASED DIESEL FUEL CONTAINED IN THE BLENDED SPECIAL  
12 FUEL PRODUCT.

13           (C) INCLUDE THE AMOUNT OF TAX PER GALLON THAT APPLIES TO  
14 THE BIODIESEL BLEND OR RENEWABLE DIESEL BLEND.

15           (d) (I) A BLENDER MUST PROVIDE TO A PURCHASER OF BIODIESEL,  
16 RENEWABLE DIESEL, BLENDED BIODIESEL, OR BLENDED RENEWABLE  
17 DIESEL A CERTIFICATE, INVOICE, BILL OF SALE, OR OTHER WRITTEN  
18 STATEMENT THAT PROVIDES THE INFORMATION REQUIRED PURSUANT TO  
19 SUBSECTION (11)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION AND THE FOLLOWING  
20 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

21           (A) THE NAME OF THE SELLER;

22           (B) THE NAME OF THE PURCHASER; AND

23           (C) THE DATE OF TRANSFER OF THE BLENDED SPECIAL FUEL  
24 PRODUCT.

25           (II) ANY PERSON CLAIMING THE TAX EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO  
26 SUBSECTION (11)(b) OF THIS SECTION MUST MAINTAINS THE  
27 CERTIFICATION RECORDS REGARDING THE BIODIESEL, RENEWABLE DIESEL,

1 BLENDED BIODIESEL, OR BLENDED RENEWABLE DIESEL FUEL PRODUCT FOR  
2 AT LEAST FOUR YEARS.

3 (e) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE  
4 SEPTEMBER 15 FOR EACH YEAR THEREAFTER THROUGH 2029, THE  
5 DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE STATE TREASURER ON THE AMOUNT  
6 OF SPECIAL FUEL TAX REVENUE LOST DUE TO THE TAX EXEMPTION SET  
7 FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION (11) IN THE PREVIOUS STATE FISCAL YEAR.

8 (f) THIS SUBSECTION (11) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,  
9 2030.

10 SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-219, add (7)(i)  
11 as follows:

12 24-75-219. Transfers - transportation - capital construction -  
13 definitions - repeal. (7) In addition to any other transfers required by  
14 this section:

15 (i) (I) ON OCTOBER 1, 2024, AND ON OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR  
16 THEREAFTER THROUGH 2029, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER  
17 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE HIGHWAY USERS TAX FUND, CREATED IN  
18 SECTION 43-4-201, THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF  
19 REVENUE REPORTS TO THE STATE TREASURER PURSUANT TO SECTION  
20 39-27-102.5 (11)(e).

21 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (7)(i) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER  
22 1, 2030.

23 SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 43-4-205, amend  
24 (6.7) as follows:

25 43-4-205. Allocation of fund. (6.7) Money transferred from the  
26 general fund to the highway users tax fund pursuant to section 24-75-219  
27 (5)(b.5) AND (7)(i) must be allocated and expended in accordance with the

1 formula specified in subsection (6)(b) of this section.

2 **SECTION 10. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2023-24 state fiscal  
3 year, \$4,516,267 General Fund is appropriated to the department of  
4 agriculture for use by the commissioner's office and administrative  
5 services. To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation as  
6 follows:

7 (a) \$412,680 for personal services, which amount is based on an  
8 assumption that the office will require an additional 1.0 FTE;

9 (b) \$186,665 for operating expenses;

10 (c) \$3,862,422 for agrivoltaics grants; and

11 (e) \$54,500 for the task force.

12 (2) Any money appropriated in subsection 1 of this section not  
13 expended prior to July 1, 2024, is further appropriated to the office for the  
14 same purpose until expended or June 30, 2026, whichever comes first.

15 (3) For the 2023-24 state fiscal year, \$30,322 General Fund is  
16 appropriated to the department of revenue. To implement this act, the  
17 department may use this appropriation as follows:

18 (a) \$7,392 for use by taxations services for personal services; and

19 (b) \$22,930 for tax administration IT system (GenTax) support.

20 **SECTION 11. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
21 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
22 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
23 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
24 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
25 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
26 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.