



Legislative Council Staff
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 23-0089 Date: June 8, 2023
Prime Sponsors: Rep. McLachlan Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
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Bill Topic: TASK FORCE ON HIGH-ALTITUDE WATER STORAGE

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

This bill would have created a task force of the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee to study the feasibility of implementing water storage in the form of snow in high-altitude areas. It would have increased state expenditures in FY 2023-24 only.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2023-24, the bill would have required an appropriation of \$14,124 to the Legislative Department.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. This bill was postponed indefinitely by the House Agriculture, Livestock, and Water Committee on January 23, 2023; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 23-1010

Table with 4 columns: Category, Sub-category, Budget Year FY 2023-24, and Out Year FY 2024-25. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total), Total FTE, Transfers, and Other Budget Impacts (General Fund Reserve).

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates a task force to study the feasibility of implementing water storage in the form of snow in high-altitude areas of the state. The task force is made up of the following seven members:

- the State Engineer or a designee;
- one Representative and one Senator;
- a representative of the ski industry;
- a representative of the whitewater rafting industry;
- an engineer with knowledge and experience with high-altitude hydrology; and
- a representative from the United States Forest Service.

The task force must convene by November 1, 2023, and meet at least once every three months. The task force must work with stakeholders across Colorado, and prepare a final report to the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee by June 1, 2024. The task force reports on December 1, 2024.

State Expenditures

The bill increases General Fund expenditures by \$17,473 and 0.2 FTE in FY 2023-24 in the Legislative Department. These costs are shown in Table 2 and described below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under House Bill 23-1010

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
Legislative Department		
Personal Services	\$12,237	-
Legislator Per Diem	\$895	-
Travel Expenses	\$992	-
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$3,349	-
Total Cost	\$17,473	-
Total FTE	0.2 FTE	-

** Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.*

Personal Services. The Legislative Department will require additional staff to provide administrative support to the task force, and to prepare the final report. Staff costs assume a September 1 start date.

Legislative per diem and travel. The bill requires per diem and reimbursement of travel expenses for two members of the General Assembly.

Department of Natural Resources. The State Engineer in the Division of Water Resources will have additional workload to participate in the task force, and may incur minimal travel expenses.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are shown in Table 2.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund Reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve beginning in FY 2022-23. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amount shown in Table 1, which will decrease the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2023-24, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$14,124 to the Legislative Department, and 0.2 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Forest Service

Legislative Council

Natural Resources