

## CHAPTER 14

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**AGRICULTURE**


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**SENATE BILL 23-010**

BY SENATOR(S) Bridges and Simpson, Coleman, Cutter, Exum, Fields, Gardner, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Liston, Lundeen, Marchman, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Priola, Roberts, Rodriguez, Sullivan, Will, Winter F., Fenberg; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McLachlan, McCormick, Amabile, Bacon, Bird, Bockenfeld, Dickson, Duran, English, Jodeh, Joseph, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Lukens, Lynch, Mabrey, Marshall, Michaelson Jenet, Ortiz, Ricks, Soper, Story, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weinberg, Willford, Woodrow, Young, McCluskie.

**AN ACT****CONCERNING THE WATER RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE REVIEW COMMITTEE.**

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-98-101, **amend** (1) introductory portion, (2)(d), and (2)(e); and **repeal** (2)(f) as follows:

**37-98-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that the purpose of this article 98 is to provide ~~an interim~~ A committee as a forum through which the general assembly shall review:

(2) The general assembly recognizes its mandate to vigorously protect and defend Colorado's finite supply of water. The general assembly further recognizes the need to ensure that water issues receive sufficient legislative scrutiny and public input:

(d) To protect water quality and water quantity; AND

(e) To ensure that Colorado's interstate water compact agreements are met and, in relation to the agreements, that Colorado's water resources are protected against unwarranted claims. ~~and~~

(f) ~~To continue the studies of the special water committee pursuant to Senate Bill 96-074.~~

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-98-102, **amend** (1)(a)(I) as follows:

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

**37-98-102. Water resources and agriculture review committee - creation.**

(1) (a) (I) For the purposes of contributing to and monitoring the conservation, use, development, and financing of the water resources of Colorado for the general welfare of its inhabitants; identifying, monitoring, and addressing Colorado agriculture issues; and reviewing and proposing water resources and agriculture legislation, there is hereby created the water resources and agriculture review committee, referred to in this article 98 as the "committee". The committee shall meet at the call of the chair ~~as often as six times during even-numbered years and eight times during odd-numbered years~~ AT LEAST FOUR TIMES DURING EACH CALENDAR YEAR to review and to propose water resources and agriculture legislation and related matters. ~~No more than two of such meetings may occur while the general assembly is in session.~~ In connection with such review, AND AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR, the committee may take ~~up to two~~ field trips ~~per~~ DURING THE CALENDAR year in connection with its mandate and shall consult with experts in the field of water conservation, quality, use, finance, and development and the field of agriculture. The department of natural resources, the state engineer, the department of agriculture, and the attorney general, together with the members and staff of the Colorado water conservation board, the Colorado water resources and power development authority, the water quality control commission, the department of public health and environment, and the great outdoors Colorado program, shall cooperate with the committee and with any persons assisting the committee in pursuing its responsibilities pursuant to this section. Further, the committee may utilize the legislative council staff to assist its members in researching any matters.

**SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-98-103, **amend** (6)(c); and **repeal** (6)(d)(I) as follows:

**37-98-103. Annual recommendations - bill limitation - deadlines for introduction.** (6) (c) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS ON MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS SET FORTH IN SECTION 37-98-102 (1)(a)(I), when the Colorado water conservation board submits a significant amendment to the state water plan to the committee as specified in section 37-60-106.3 (3)(b), the committee may hold at least one public hearing on the amendment in each geographic region associated with the basin roundtables for the purpose of receiving the public's feedback. If the committee holds the hearings, the committee shall provide a summary of the public's feedback, as well as the committee's own feedback, to the board by November 1 of the year in which the hearings are held.

(d) Hearings held pursuant to this subsection (6):

(I) ~~Do not count against the number of meetings or field trips allowed by section 37-98-102 (1)(a); and~~

**SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-60-106.3, **amend** (4) as follows:

**37-60-106.3. State water plan - legislative declaration - grant program.** (4) **Legislation.** By November 1 of each year following the submission to the water resources and agriculture review committee of a state water plan or amendment pursuant to this section, any member of the general assembly may make a request in writing to the chairperson of the water resources and agriculture review

committee that the committee hold one or more hearings to review the plan or amendment as submitted to the water resources and agriculture review committee. Upon receipt of the request, AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS ON MEETINGS SET FORTH IN SECTION 37-98-102 (1)(a)(I), the chairperson of the committee shall promptly schedule a hearing to conduct the review and provide adequate notice to the public and the board. The committee, after holding a public hearing, may recommend the introduction of a bill or bills based on the results of the review. A bill recommended by the committee for consideration under this subsection (4) does not count against the number of bills to which either the committee or the members of the general assembly are limited by law or joint rule of the senate and the house of representatives. ~~and a hearing held by the committee pursuant to this subsection (4) does not count against the number of meetings allowed by section 37-98-102 (1)(a).~~

**SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: March 10, 2023