

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 25-0424.02 Jennifer Berman x3286

**HOUSE BILL 25-1115**

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**McCluskie and Soper,**

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**Roberts and Catlin,**

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**House Committees**

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD'S**  
102              **ADMINISTRATION OF A WATER SUPPLY MEASUREMENT**  
103              **PROGRAM.**

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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>.)*

The bill authorizes the Colorado water conservation board (board) to administer a water supply measurement and forecasting program to collect and disseminate data on snowpack levels, investigate technological advances in snowpack measurement and water supply forecasting, and collect other data that the board determines will assist in

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.*

those efforts.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds that:

4 (a) Colorado's snowpack serves as a significant natural reservoir,  
5 holding winter precipitation until spring and summer when it is released  
6 as snow melt;

7 (b) Given the major role that snowpack plays in Colorado's water  
8 system, snowpack measurement is a critical tool for water managers  
9 statewide;

10 (c) Every year, water managers are challenged with balancing  
11 water supply needs and uncertainty regarding the flows into the water  
12 system, while relying on uncertain runoff forecasts. Experience shows  
13 that forecast reliability and the use of available water supplies can be  
14 optimized when snowpack and runoff can be accurately predicted.

15 (d) New technologies are emerging and currently available,  
16 including light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology, that can  
17 collect highly accurate and timely data on snowpack from an airplane;

18 (e) Because such snow surveys require significant financial  
19 resources from multiple sources, current snowpack measurement  
20 protocols are generally decentralized and are being done by a variety of  
21 water entities across the state and without a formal program through  
22 which to coordinate efforts;

23 (f) The Colorado water conservation board (CWCB) within the  
24 department of natural resources is governed by a 15-member board,  
25 representing each major water basin in the state;

1 (g) The CWCB is well positioned to lead the management of a  
2 statewide snowpack measurement and forecasting program to:

3 (I) Create a more streamlined process;

4 (II) Provide more transparent dissemination of data to water users  
5 statewide;

6 (III) Provide information to the division of water resources dam  
7 safety branch regarding risk management of dams; and

8 (IV) Strengthen the state's and water users' position for the  
9 procurement of contract measurement services;

10 (h) This centralized approach would not only improve the  
11 reliability of water supply forecasts, but also position Colorado to better  
12 adapt to climate change impacts on snowpack and water resources,  
13 including extreme events such as rapid runoff and floods, ultimately  
14 benefitting all water stakeholders across the state; and

15 (i) As a result, water managers statewide will also be better  
16 equipped to make informed decisions as they balance reservoir operations  
17 and streamflow.

18 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that the creation of  
19 a water supply measurement and forecasting program will assist the state  
20 in planning for population growth and environmental changes, while  
21 building resilience in the mitigation of severe floods.

22 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-60-106, **amend**  
23 (1) introductory portion; and **add** (1)(v) as follows:

24 **37-60-106. Duties of the board - legislative declaration.** (1) ~~It~~  
25 ~~is the duty of~~ The board ~~to~~ SHALL promote the conservation of the waters  
26 of the state of Colorado in order to secure the greatest utilization of such  
27 waters and the utmost prevention of floods. ~~and~~ In particular, and without

1 limiting the general character of this section, the board has the power and  
2 it is its duty:

3 (v) TO ADMINISTER A WATER SUPPLY MEASUREMENT AND  
4 FORECASTING PROGRAM TO:

5 (I) COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE DATA ON SNOWPACK LEVELS;

6 (II) INVESTIGATE THE LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN  
7 SNOWPACK MEASUREMENT AND WATER SUPPLY FORECASTING; AND

8 (III) COLLECT OTHER DATA THAT THE BOARD DETERMINES WILL  
9 ASSIST IN SNOWPACK MEASUREMENT, WATER SUPPLY FORECASTING, OR  
10 FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING.

11 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
12 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
13 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
14 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
16 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
17 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
18 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
19 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.