

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT  
10/10/23

Bill 11

LLS NO. 24-0367.01 Sarah Lozano x3858

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee

---

**BILL TOPIC:** Local Auth Enforce Violation Of Noxious Weed Act

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING LOCAL AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE VIOLATIONS OF LAWS**  
102 **RELATED TO THE PREVENTION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS.**

---

**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/>.)*

**Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee.** Current law allows the commissioner of agriculture to assess civil penalties for violations of state laws related to the prevention of noxious weeds (violations). The bill:

- Clarifies that a board of county commissioners (board) may allow for the assessment and collection of fines for

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

violations of local laws enacted to enforce the management of noxious weeds in the county;

- Creates a civil infraction for violations;
- Creates a civil penalty for violations that is no less than \$500 and no more than \$1,000;
- Allows a county attorney to issue an injunction to prevent an ongoing violation; and
- Allows a board to appoint a district attorney to enforce violations in the event that the county does not have a county attorney or in any other circumstance that the board deems appropriate.

---

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-5.5-105, **amend**  
3 (1) as follows:

4 **35-5.5-105. Noxious weed management - powers of county**  
5 **commissioners.** (1) The board of county commissioners of each county  
6 in the state shall adopt a noxious weed management plan for all of the  
7 unincorporated lands within the county. ~~Such~~ A NOXIOUS WEED  
8 MANAGEMENT plan ~~shall~~ MUST include all of the requirements and duties  
9 imposed by this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 5.5. Guidelines may be included that  
10 address no pesticide noxious weed management plans. In addition to and  
11 not in limitation of the powers delegated to boards of county  
12 commissioners in section 30-11-107, ~~and~~ article 15 of title 30, ~~C.R.S.~~,  
13 article 5 of this ~~title~~ TITLE 35, and elsewhere as provided by law, the  
14 board of county commissioners may adopt and provide for the  
15 enforcement, INCLUDING THE ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF FINES, of  
16 ~~such~~ ordinances, resolutions, rules, and other regulations as may be  
17 necessary and proper to enforce ~~said~~ A NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT plan  
18 and otherwise provide for the management of noxious weeds within the  
19 county, subject to the following limitation: ~~No~~ A county ordinance, rule,

1 resolution, other regulation, or exercise of power pursuant to this article  
2 ~~shall~~ ARTICLE 5.5 DOES NOT apply within the corporate limits of any  
3 incorporated municipality ~~nor~~ OR to any municipal service, function,  
4 facility, or property, whether owned by or leased to the incorporated  
5 municipality outside the municipal boundaries, unless the county and  
6 municipality agree otherwise pursuant to part 2 of article 1 of title 29  
7 ~~C.R.S.~~, or article 20 of title 29. ~~C.R.S.~~

8 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 35-5.5-118.5 as  
9 follows:

10 **35-5.5-118.5. Local enforcement - civil infraction - civil**  
11 **penalty - injunction - definition.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS  
12 THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "VIOLATION" MEANS A VIOLATION OF  
13 THIS ARTICLE 5.5, ANY RULE PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE  
14 5.5, OR ANY COUNTY ORDINANCE, RESOLUTION, RULE, OR OTHER  
15 REGULATION IMPLEMENTING THIS ARTICLE 5.5.

16 (2) IN ADDITION TO THE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OF THE  
17 COMMISSIONER PURSUANT TO SECTION 35-5.5-118, A PERSON WHO  
18 VIOLATES THIS ARTICLE 5.5, ANY RULE PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO THIS  
19 ARTICLE 5.5, OR ANY COUNTY ORDINANCE, RESOLUTION, RULE, OR OTHER  
20 REGULATION IMPLEMENTING THIS ARTICLE 5.5 COMMITS A CIVIL  
21 INFRACTION. THE COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR THE COUNTY WHERE THE  
22 VIOLATION OCCURS SHALL ENFORCE CIVIL INFRACTIONS PURSUANT TO THIS  
23 SUBSECTION (2) BY PROSECUTION. EACH DAY THAT A VIOLATION  
24 CONTINUES IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE.

25 (3) (a) (I) IN ADDITION TO THE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OF THE  
26 COMMISSIONER PURSUANT TO SECTION 35-5.5-118 AND THE COUNTY  
27 ATTORNEY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, A COUNTY

1 COURT, UPON A FINDING BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE THAT A  
2 VIOLATION OCCURRED OR IS OCCURRING, SHALL ORDER THE VIOLATOR TO  
3 PAY A CIVIL PENALTY OF NO LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND NO  
4 MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

5 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION (3)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION, EACH  
6 DAY THAT A VIOLATION CONTINUES IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE, AND A  
7 VIOLATOR IS SUBJECT TO A CONTINUING CIVIL PENALTY OF NO MORE THAN  
8 ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR EACH DAY THAT THE VIOLATION CONTINUES.

9 (b) (I) UNTIL THE FILING WITH THE COUNTY COURT OF A RECEIPT  
10 ISSUED BY THE COUNTY TREASURER SHOWING PAYMENT IN FULL OF A CIVIL  
11 PENALTY ORDERED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION OR  
12 THE GRANTING OF A MOTION OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY INDICATING THAT  
13 THE MATTER HAS BEEN RESOLVED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(c)(I) OF  
14 THIS SECTION, THE CIVIL PENALTY, AS OF THE DATE OF THE RECORDING OF  
15 THE CIVIL PENALTY WITH THE CLERK AND RECORDER OF THE COUNTY  
16 WHERE THE VIOLATION OCCURRED OR IS OCCURRING, IS A LIEN AGAINST  
17 THE PROPERTY WHERE THE VIOLATION OCCURRED OR IS OCCURRING.

18 (II) IF THE CIVIL PENALTY IS NOT PAID WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER  
19 THE ORDER OF THE COUNTY COURT, THE COUNTY ATTORNEY MAY CERTIFY  
20 THE CIVIL PENALTY TO THE COUNTY TREASURER, WHO SHALL COLLECT THE  
21 CIVIL PENALTY AND A TEN PERCENT ADDITIONAL PENALTY FOR THE COST  
22 OF COLLECTION IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER TAXES ARE COLLECTED.

23 (III) ANY STATE LAWS APPLICABLE TO THE ASSESSMENT AND  
24 COLLECTION OF GENERAL TAXES, INCLUDING THE LAWS FOR THE SALE AND  
25 REDEMPTION OF PROPERTY FOR TAXES, APPLY TO THE COLLECTION OF  
26 CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II) OF THIS SECTION.

27 (c) (I) UPON THE FILING WITH THE COUNTY COURT OF A RECEIPT

1 ISSUED BY THE COUNTY TREASURER SHOWING PAYMENT IN FULL OF A CIVIL  
2 PENALTY ORDERED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
3 COUNTY COURT SHALL DISMISS THE ACTION AND ISSUE A SATISFACTION IN  
4 FULL OF THE COUNTY COURT'S JUDGMENT. THE COUNTY COURT MAY ALSO  
5 DISMISS THE ACTION UPON A MOTION OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY  
6 INDICATING THAT THE MATTER HAS BEEN RESOLVED.

7 (II) IF THE EVENTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(c)(I) OF THIS  
8 SECTION DO NOT OCCUR, THE ACTION CONTINUES. IF A COUNTY ATTORNEY  
9 FILES A MOTION IN COUNTY COURT AND PRESENTS PROOF THAT THE  
10 VIOLATION HAS NOT BEEN CURED, REMOVED, OR CORRECTED, THE COUNTY  
11 COURT SHALL ORDER AN ADDITIONAL CIVIL PENALTY IN AN AMOUNT  
12 CONSISTENT WITH SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

13 (4) THE COUNTY ATTORNEY MAY INSTITUTE AN INJUNCTION,  
14 MANDAMUS, ABATEMENT, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION OR  
15 PROCEEDING TO PREVENT, ENJOIN, ABATE, OR REMOVE AN ONGOING  
16 VIOLATION.

17 (5) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION TO THE  
18 CONTRARY, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN THE COUNTY  
19 WHERE A VIOLATION OCCURRED OR IS OCCURRING MAY APPOINT THE  
20 DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT WHERE A VIOLATION  
21 OCCURRED OR IS OCCURRING TO CONDUCT AN ENFORCEMENT ACTION  
22 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION:

23 (a) IF THERE IS NO COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR THE COUNTY WHERE  
24 THE VIOLATION OCCURRED; OR

25 (b) IN ANY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCE THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
26 COMMISSIONERS DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

27 (6) EXCEPT FOR ANY SURCHARGES OR COURT COSTS COLLECTED

1 BY A COURT, ANY FINES, FEES, OR COSTS COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THIS  
2 SECTION MUST BE TRANSMITTED TO THE COUNTY TREASURER OF THE  
3 COUNTY WHERE THE VIOLATION OCCURRED.

4 (7) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION TO THE CONTRARY, IT IS  
5 WITHIN THE DISCRETION OF A COUNTY ATTORNEY OR DISTRICT ATTORNEY,  
6 AS APPLICABLE, TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO PURSUE AN ENFORCEMENT  
7 ACTION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION OR TO PURSUE ANOTHER REMEDY  
8 AVAILABLE UNDER THE LAW.

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

19 (2) This act applies to conduct occurring on or after the applicable  
20 effective date of this act.