



Legislative Council Staff

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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 23-0085
Prime Sponsors:

Date: September 19, 2022
Bill Status: Bill Request
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Bill Topic: **AUTHORIZE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT WATER MGMT**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue | <input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity |

The bill expands the purposes for which district courts may create water conservation districts, and the authority of water districts to organize groundwater management sub-districts and to participate in augmentation plans and groundwater management plans. The bill minimally increases state revenue and expenditures beginning in FY 2023-24.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the bill draft requested by the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee.

Summary of Legislation

The bill modifies the authority of district courts and water districts to manage water resources. Specifically, the bill:

- revises the purposes for which a district court may create a water conservation district to include commercial uses;
- authorizes the directors of a water conservation district to submit and participate in water augmentation plans within their service boundaries when considered by a water court; and
- allows for the organization of a groundwater management sub-district and adoption of a groundwater management plan.

State Revenue and Expenditures

The bill may result in a minimal number of new augmentation plans filed in water court, slightly increasing state revenue from filing fees, and workload for the water courts within the Judicial Department. The bill also minimally increases workload in the Division of Water Resources and the Colorado Water Conservation Board in the Department of Natural Resources to assist the districts and courts with augmentation plans and sub-district groundwater management plans.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture
Judicial

Counties
Local Affairs

Forest Service
Natural Resources