

First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

BILL B

LLS NO. 23-0091.01 Megan McCall x4215

SENATE BILL

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Simpson,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McKean and McLachlan, McCormick

Senate Committees

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE WATER RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE REVIEW**
102 **COMMITTEE.**

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. The bill removes a reference to the water resources and agriculture review committee being an interim committee and removes an outdated reference to Senate Bill 96-074 in the legislative declaration. The bill also removes limitations on the number of meetings and the number of field trips the committee may hold and requires the committee to meet at least 4 times

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

during each calendar year.

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

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

4 **37-98-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
5 finds, determines, and declares that the purpose of this article 98 is to
6 provide ~~an interim~~ A committee as a forum through which the general
7 assembly shall review:

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

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

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

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

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

20 **37-98-102. Water resources and agriculture review committee**
21 **- creation.** (1) (a) (I) For the purposes of contributing to and monitoring
22 the conservation, use, development, and financing of the water resources
23 of Colorado for the general welfare of its inhabitants; identifying,
24 monitoring, and addressing Colorado agriculture issues; and reviewing
25 and proposing water resources and agriculture legislation, there is hereby

1 created the water resources and agriculture review committee, referred to
2 in this article 98 as the "committee". The committee shall meet at the call
3 of the chair ~~as often as six times during even-numbered years and eight~~
4 ~~times during odd-numbered years~~ AT LEAST FOUR TIMES DURING EACH
5 CALENDAR YEAR to review and to propose water resources and agriculture
6 legislation and related matters. ~~No more than two of such meetings may~~
7 ~~occur while the general assembly is in session.~~ In connection with such
8 review, AND AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR, the committee may take
9 ~~up to two field trips per~~ DURING THE CALENDAR year in connection with
10 its mandate and shall consult with experts in the field of water
11 conservation, quality, use, finance, and development and the field of
12 agriculture. The department of natural resources, the state engineer, the
13 department of agriculture, and the attorney general, together with the
14 members and staff of the Colorado water conservation board, the
15 Colorado water resources and power development authority, the water
16 quality control commission, the department of public health and
17 environment, and the great outdoors Colorado program, shall cooperate
18 with the committee and with any persons assisting the committee in
19 pursuing its responsibilities pursuant to this section. Further, the
20 committee may utilize the legislative council staff to assist its members
21 in researching any matters.

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

24 **37-98-103. Annual recommendations - bill limitation -**
25 **deadlines for introduction.** (6) (c) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS
26 ON MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS SET FORTH IN SECTION 37-98-102 (1)(a)(I),
27 when the Colorado water conservation board submits a significant

1 amendment to the state water plan to the committee as specified in section
2 37-60-106.3 (3)(b), the committee may hold at least one public hearing
3 on the amendment in each geographic region associated with the basin
4 roundtables for the purpose of receiving the public's feedback. If the
5 committee holds the hearings, the committee shall provide a summary of
6 the public's feedback, as well as the committee's own feedback, to the
7 board by November 1 of the year in which the hearings are held.

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

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

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

13 **37-60-106.3. State water plan - legislative declaration - grant**
14 **program. (4) Legislation.** By November 1 of each year following the
15 submission to the water resources and agriculture review committee of a
16 state water plan or amendment pursuant to this section, any member of
17 the general assembly may make a request in writing to the chairperson of
18 the water resources and agriculture review committee that the committee
19 hold one or more hearings to review the plan or amendment as submitted
20 to the water resources and agriculture review committee. Upon receipt of
21 the request, AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS ON MEETINGS SET
22 FORTH IN SECTION 37-98-102 (1)(a)(I), the chairperson of the committee
23 shall promptly schedule a hearing to conduct the review and provide
24 adequate notice to the public and the board. The committee, after holding
25 a public hearing, may recommend the introduction of a bill or bills based
26 on the results of the review. A bill recommended by the committee for
27 consideration under this subsection (4) does not count against the number

1 of bills to which either the committee or the members of the general
2 assembly are limited by law or joint rule of the senate and the house of
3 representatives. ~~and a hearing held by the committee pursuant to this~~
4 ~~subsection (4) does not count against the number of meetings allowed by~~
5 ~~section 37-98-102 (1)(a).~~

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