

CHAPTER 111

WATER AND IRRIGATION

SENATE BILL 14-017

BY SENATOR(S) Roberts and Hodge, Aguilar, Guzman, Johnston, Kefalas, Nicholson, Schwartz, Ulibarri, Carroll;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Vigil and Coram, Fischer, Becker, Fields, Garcia, Hamner, Hullinghorst, Labuda, McLachlan.

AN ACT

CONCERNING A LIMITATION ON THE APPROVAL OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENTS THAT USE WATER RIGHTS DECREED FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES TO IRRIGATE LAWN GRASS.

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

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly hereby:

(a) Finds that:

(I) As part of the Colorado water conservation board's statewide water supply initiative and the interbasin compact committee and basin roundtable process, a "No/Low Regrets Action Plan" has been developed, an important element of which is to establish and implement conservation strategies to extend the ability of existing water supplies to meet increasing needs and thereby minimize agricultural dry-up; and

(II) Demand projections by the state include significant growth in municipal water demands and attendant pressure on irrigated agriculture as a principal source of supply to meet that demand, and statewide efforts to ease some of the pressure from agricultural water supplies would benefit greatly from reductions in municipal consumptive water uses;

(b) Determines that while the amount of municipal water used is relatively evenly split between indoor and outdoor use, indoor water use is about five percent consumptive, while outdoor water use, primarily for landscape irrigation, consumes about seventy to eighty-five percent of the water used; and

(c) Declares that it is critical to identify and quantify the best practices that limit municipal outdoor water consumption, as this holds great potential for reducing

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

Colorado's projected water supply gap.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-98-103, **add** (5) as follows:

37-98-103. Annual recommendations - bill limitation - deadlines for introduction - repeal. (5) (a) DURING THE 2014 INTERIM, THE COMMITTEE SHALL INVESTIGATE THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE VERSION OF SENATE BILL 14-017 REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE IN THE SENATE, INCLUDING AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING:

(I) IDENTIFICATION AND QUANTIFICATION OF THE BEST PRACTICES TO LIMIT MUNICIPAL OUTDOOR WATER CONSUMPTION THAT CAN BE USED, INCLUDING BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, WATER SUPPLIERS, HOMEOWNERS, REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS, AND LANDSCAPING CONTRACTORS; AND

(II) PROPOSED LEGISLATION, IF APPROPRIATE, TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE PRACTICES THAT ARE BOTH REASONABLE AND LIKELY TO RESULT IN THE MEASURABLE CONSERVATION OF MUNICIPAL WATER USED FOR OUTDOOR PURPOSES.

(b) THIS SUBSECTION (5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2015.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: April 11, 2014