

First Regular Session  
Sixty-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 03-0218.01 Thomas Morris

**HOUSE BILL 03-1001**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hoppe,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Johnson S.,**

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**House Committees**

Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources

**Senate Committees**

State Veterans & Military Affairs

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING INCREASED FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF WATER**  
102 **RESOURCES, WITHOUT REGARD TO WATER DIVISION**  
103 **BOUNDARIES.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Requires the Colorado water resources and power development authority to subsidize the cost of issuance of bonds and notes for water management facilities that are raw water diversion or storage projects and that are jointly sponsored by two or more governmental agencies.

Allows the state engineer to approve, after notice and comment, the operation of substitute water supply plans during a drought. Allows entities that pay for repairs necessary to remove a reservoir storage

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.

*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*

*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 4, 2003

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 3, 2003

restriction imposed by the state engineer to apply for approval of the use of such storage as a drought substitute water supply plan.

Requires the state engineer to cooperate with entities seeking approval pursuant to federal law to share the use of federal water facilities during droughts. Requires state agencies to cooperate with entities seeking rights to easements for ditches and ownership for reservoir sites.

Authorizes the expenditure of \$3 million from the Colorado water conservation board construction fund for implementation of the statewide water supply initiative as approved by the water conservation board. Authorizes the department of local affairs to provide technical assistance to local government water providers to implement tiered billing systems that show customers' water usage.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*  
2           **SECTION 1.** 37-95-109 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
3 amended to read:  
4           **37-95-109. Bonds or notes - issuance - terms.** (1) The authority  
5 has the power and is hereby authorized from time to time to issue its  
6 bonds or notes in such principal amounts as in the opinion of the board  
7 are necessary to provide sufficient funds for any of its corporate  
8 purposes, including the payment, funding, or refunding of the principal  
9 of, or interest or redemption premiums on, any bonds or notes issued by  
10 it, whether the bonds or notes or interest to be funded or refunded have  
11 or have not become due, and including the establishment or increase of  
12 such reserves to secure or to pay such bonds or notes or interest thereon  
13 and all other costs or expenses of the authority incident to and necessary  
14 to carry out its corporate purposes and powers. THE AUTHORITY SHALL  
15 SUBSIDIZE SOME OR ALL OF THE COST OF ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES  
16 PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE FOR PROJECTS, INCLUDING SMALL WATER  
17 RESOURCES PROJECTS, TO BUILD WATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES THAT  
18 ARE RAW WATER DIVERSION OR STORAGE PROJECTS THAT ARE JOINTLY

1 SPONSORED BY TWO OR MORE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES THAT DO NOT  
2 SHARE THE SAME GOVERNING BODY.

3 **SECTION 2.** 37-86-104, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
4 to read:

5 **37-86-104. Condemnation of right-of-way.** (1) Upon the refusal  
6 of owners of tracts of land through which said right-of-way is proposed  
7 to run, to allow passage through their property, the person desiring such  
8 right-of-way may proceed to condemn and take same under the provisions  
9 of articles 1 to 7 of title 38, C.R.S., concerning eminent domain.

10 (2) STATE AGENCIES SHALL, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT  
11 PRACTICABLE, COOPERATE WITH PERSONS DESIRING A RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR  
12 WATER CONVEYANCE STRUCTURES.

13 **SECTION 3.** 37-87-101 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended to read:

15 **37-87-101. Storage of water.** (1) (a) The right to store water of  
16 a natural stream for later application to beneficial use is recognized as a  
17 right of appropriation in order of priority under the Colorado constitution.  
18 No water storage facility may be operated in such a manner as to cause  
19 material injury to the senior appropriative rights of others. Acquisition  
20 of those interests in real property reasonably necessary for the  
21 construction, maintenance, or operation of any water storage reservoir,  
22 together with inlet, outlet, or spillway structures or other facilities  
23 necessary to make such reservoir effective to accomplish the beneficial  
24 use or uses of water stored or to be stored therein, may be secured under  
25 the laws of eminent domain.

26 (b) STATE AGENCIES SHALL, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT  
27 PRACTICABLE, COOPERATE WITH PERSONS DESIRING TO ACQUIRE REAL

1 PROPERTY FOR WATER STORAGE STRUCTURES.

2 SECTION 4. 37-60-126 (4) (g), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
3 amended, and the said 37-60-126 is further amended BY THE  
4 ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

5 37-60-126. Water use efficiency - urban water use efficiency  
6 programs - relationship to state assistance for water facilities. (4) In  
7 developing a plan pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, each covered  
8 entity shall consider at least the following water-saving measures:

9 (g) (I) Water rate structures AND BILLING SYSTEMS designed to  
10 encourage water use efficiency in a fiscally responsible manner;

11 (II) THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS MAY PROVIDE TECHNICAL  
12 ASSISTANCE TO COVERED ENTITIES THAT ARE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO  
13 IMPLEMENT WATER BILLING SYSTEMS THAT SHOW CUSTOMER WATER  
14 USAGE AND THAT IMPLEMENT TIERED BILLING SYSTEMS;

15 (11) (a) ON AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION  
16 (11), ANY NEW RESTRICTIVE COVENANT THAT PROHIBITS OR LIMITS THE  
17 INSTALLATION OR USE OF DROUGHT-TOLERANT VEGETATIVE LANDSCAPES  
18 IS PROHIBITED.

19 (b) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (11), "RESTRICTIVE COVENANT"  
20 MEANS ANY COVENANT, RESTRICTION, OR CONDITION APPLICABLE TO REAL  
21 PROPERTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING LAND USE, BUT DOES NOT  
22 INCLUDE ANY COVENANT, RESTRICTION, OR CONDITION IMPOSED ON SUCH  
23 REAL PROPERTY BY ANY GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.

24 SECTION 5. The introductory portion to 37-92-308 (4) (a),  
25 37-92-308 (4) (a) (II), (4) (a) (III), (4) (a) (IV), the introductory portion  
26 to 37-92-308 (5) (a), and 37-92-308 (5) (a) (IV) and (5) (b), are amended,  
27 and the said 37-92-308 is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A

1 NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

2 **37-92-308. Substitute water supply plans - special procedures**

3 **for review.** (4) (a) Beginning January 1, 2002, if an application for  
4 approval of a plan for augmentation OR CHANGE OF WATER RIGHT has  
5 been filed with a water court and the court has not issued a decree, the  
6 state engineer may approve the temporary operation of such plan OR  
7 CHANGE OF WATER RIGHT as a substitute water supply plan if the  
8 following conditions are met:

9 (II) The applicant has provided written notice of the request for  
10 approval of the substitute water supply plan by first-class mail or  
11 electronic mail to all parties who have filed a statement of opposition to  
12 the plan in water court and proof of such notice is filed with the state  
13 engineer, OR, IF THE DEADLINE FOR FILING A STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION  
14 HAS NOT PASSED, THE APPLICANT HAS PROVIDED WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE  
15 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE SUBSTITUTE WATER SUPPLY PLAN BY  
16 FIRST-CLASS MAIL OR ELECTRONIC MAIL TO ALL PARTIES WHO HAVE  
17 SUBSCRIBED TO THE SUBSTITUTE WATER SUPPLY PLAN NOTIFICATION LIST  
18 FOR THE WATER DIVISION IN WHICH THE PROPOSED PLAN IS LOCATED AND  
19 PROOF OF SUCH NOTICE IS FILED WITH THE STATE ENGINEER;

20 (III) The state engineer has given ~~the opposers in the water court~~  
21 ~~case~~ THOSE TO WHOM NOTICE WAS PROVIDED thirty days after the date of  
22 mailing of such notice to file comments on the substitute water supply  
23 plan. Such comments shall include any claim of injury, ~~or~~ any terms and  
24 conditions that should be imposed upon the plan to prevent injury to an  
25 opposer's water rights or decreed conditional water rights, and any other  
26 information an opposer wishes the state engineer to consider in reviewing  
27 the substitute water supply plan request.

1 (IV) The state engineer, after consideration of the comments from  
2 any water court opposer RECEIVED, has determined that the operation and  
3 administration of such plan will replace all out-of-priority depletions in  
4 time, location, and amount in a manner that will AND WILL OTHERWISE  
5 prevent injury to other water rights and decreed conditional water rights,  
6 including water quality and continuity to meet the requirements of use to  
7 which the senior appropriation has normally been put, pursuant to section  
8 37-80-120 (3), and will not impair compliance with any interstate  
9 compacts. The state engineer shall impose such terms and conditions as  
10 are necessary to ensure that these standards are met. In making such  
11 determinations, the state engineer shall not be required to hold any formal  
12 hearings or conduct any other formal proceedings, but may conduct a  
13 hearing or formal proceeding if the state engineer finds it necessary to  
14 address the issues.

15 (5) (a) Beginning January 1, 2002, for new water use plans  
16 involving out-of-priority diversions OR A CHANGE OF WATER RIGHT, if no  
17 application for approval of a plan for augmentation OR A CHANGE OF  
18 WATER RIGHT has been filed with a water court and the water use PLAN OR  
19 CHANGE proposed and the depletions associated with such water use PLAN  
20 OR CHANGE will be for a limited duration not to exceed five years, the  
21 state engineer may approve such plan OR CHANGE as a substitute water  
22 supply plan if the following conditions are met:

23 (IV) The state engineer, after consideration of the comments from  
24 any opposer RECEIVED, has determined that the operation and  
25 administration of such plan will replace all out-of-priority depletions in  
26 time, location, and amount in a manner that will AND WILL OTHERWISE  
27 prevent injury to other water rights and decreed conditional water rights,

1 including water quality and continuity to meet the requirements of use to  
2 which the senior appropriation has normally been put, pursuant to section  
3 37-80-120 (3) and will not impair compliance with any interstate  
4 compacts. The state engineer shall impose such terms and conditions as  
5 are necessary to ensure that these standards are met. In making the  
6 determinations specified in this subparagraph (IV), the state engineer  
7 shall not be required to hold any formal hearings or conduct any other  
8 formal proceedings, but may conduct a hearing or formal proceeding if  
9 the state engineer finds it necessary to address the issues.

10 (b) A substitute water supply plan approved pursuant to this  
11 subsection (5) shall not be approved for a period of more than one year;  
12 except that an applicant may request the renewal of a plan by repeating  
13 the application process described in this subsection (5). However, in no  
14 event shall any plan approved pursuant to this subsection (5) be  
15 APPROVED OR renewed ~~beyond~~ FOR MORE THAN five years. ~~after the initial~~  
16 ~~date of approval.~~

17 (9) IF AN ENTITY PAYS FOR REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, DREDGING, OR  
18 OTHER IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, THAT ARE  
19 NECESSARY AND EFFECTIVE IN REMOVING A STORAGE RESTRICTION  
20 IMPOSED BY THE STATE ENGINEER PURSUANT TO SECTION 37-87-107 ON A  
21 DAM OR RESERVOIR OWNED BY A THIRD PARTY, SUCH ENTITY MAY APPLY  
22 TO THE STATE ENGINEER PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION  
23 FOR APPROVAL OF THE USE OF SOME OR ALL OF SUCH NEWLY  
24 UNRESTRICTED STORAGE AS A SUBSTITUTE WATER SUPPLY PLAN, IF THE  
25 ENTITY HAS A WRITTEN AGREEMENT CONCERNING SUCH USE WITH ALL THE  
26 OWNERS OF THE DAM OR RESERVOIR AND THE ASSOCIATED WATER RIGHTS.

1           **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
2 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
3 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.