


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
STATE
FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 08-0500
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Fischer

Date: January 10, 2008
Bill Status: House Agriculture
Fiscal Analyst: Marc Carey (303-866-4102)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE COLORADO WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CHANGING THE NAME OF THE INSTITUTE TO THE COLORADO WATER INSTITUTE, EXPANDING THE DUTIES OF THE INSTITUTE, AND AUTHORIZING THE INSTITUTE AS A CONTRACTING ENTITY FOR WATER RESEARCH.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2008-2009	FY 2009-2010
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
FTE Position Change	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2008-2009: None required.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill changes the name of the Colorado Water Resources Research Institute at Colorado State University (CSU) to the Colorado Water Institute. The bill expands the purpose of the institute to include:

- creating and operating a water research information and education center for water resources, water quality, and water-related policy and climate issues;
- training future generations of water scientists, managers and planners; and
- serving Colorado's needs for scientific investigation in areas of hydrology, water resource and quality management, drought planning and mitigation and climate change.

The bill expands the duties of the institute to:

- consult with drought and climate change planning organizations and environmental and water quality planning organizations in identifying and prioritizing the state's water research needs;
- support public health and environmental protection agencies' research on issues such as the effects of and interconnections between climate change, water quality and supply; and

- establish and maintain a clearinghouse of water research, water quality, and climate projection data.

The bill authorizes the institute as a contracting entity and oversight provider for state agencies seeking to utilize Colorado universities for water research. The institute may assess a fee to cover administrative costs of 20 percent or less of any project budget. The bill charges the advisory committee on water research policy with annually setting the administrative fee.

The bill also designates the executive directors of the Departments of Natural Resources and Public Health and Environment as members of the committee, and specifies that the remaining 8 committee members will be appointed by the director of the institute. Finally, the bill repeals the existing limitation that no General Fund moneys be appropriated to the institute.

State Revenues

Colorado State University, Colorado Water Resources Research Institute. This bill authorizes the institute to accept grants, donations and appropriations from any entity. In addition, the institute is authorized to assess a fee to cover administrative costs for any research project it administers. Although these provisions potentially provide new sources of revenue to the institute, they are not currently prohibited from assessing an administrative fee, only from being appropriated state General Fund. This revenue impact is conditional on the institute contracting to administer a water research project, and assessing the authorized fee.

State Expenditures

Colorado State University, Colorado Water Resources Research Institute. The institute is an administrative unit of CSU under the supervision and control of the university's administration and board of governors. This legislation expands the institute's duties, allows state appropriations to pass through the institute's fiscal control, and allows the institute to be appropriated General Fund moneys. However, the bill does not affect overall state appropriations for CSU.

State Appropriations

No new state appropriations are required to implement the bill.

Departments Contacted

Higher Education

Natural Resources

Public Health and Environment