


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
STATE
REVISED FISCAL IMPACT
(replaces fiscal note dated January 22, 2008)

Drafting Number: LLS 08-0500	Date: February 14, 2008
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Fischer	Bill Status: Senate Agriculture
Sen. Schwartz	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 reengrossed 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 issues;
- training future generations of water scientists, managers and planners; and
- serving Colorado's needs for scientific research and policy analysis in areas including but not limited to water development and storage and surface and groundwater 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 water quality planning organizations in identifying and prioritizing the state's water scientific and policy-related research needs;

- support public health and water quality protection agencies' research on water-related issues including the effects of climate change on water quality, water availability, run-off timing, drought planning and future compact compliance;
- examine the interconnections between climate change, water supply, and water quality and provide tools needed by water managers and policymakers for adapting to global climate change; and
- establish and maintain a clearinghouse of water research, water quality, and climate projection data.

The bill authorizes the institute as an administering 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 Agriculture, 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. Although the bill as introduced does not make an appropriation, the General Assembly is given discretionary authority to appropriate General Fund moneys to the institute.

State Appropriations

No new state appropriations are required to implement the bill.

Departments Contacted

Higher Education

Natural Resources

Public Health and Environment