

First Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 13-0359.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

HOUSE BILL 13-1044

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Fischer,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Schwartz,

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House Committees

Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE USE OF GRAYWATER.

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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

Current law is unclear regarding whether, and under what conditions, graywater may be used. **Section 1** of the bill declares the importance of water conservation to the economy of Colorado and the well-being of its citizens.

**Section 2** defines "graywater" as that portion of wastewater that, before being treated or combined with other wastewater, is collected from fixtures within residential, commercial, or industrial buildings or

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.*

institutional facilities for the purpose of being put to beneficial uses authorized by the water quality control commission (commission) in the department of public health and environment. Sources of graywater may include discharges from bathroom and laundry room sinks, bathtubs, showers, and laundry machines, as well as water from other sources authorized by rules promulgated by the commission. Graywater does not include wastewater from toilets, urinals, kitchen sinks, nonlaundry utility sinks, and dishwashers. Graywater must be collected in a manner that minimizes household wastes, human excreta, animal or vegetable matter, and chemicals that are hazardous or toxic, as determined by the commission. Section 2 also defines "graywater treatment works".

**Section 3** authorizes the commission to establish minimum statewide requirements, standards, and prohibitions. Graywater may only be used:

- ! In accordance with the terms and conditions of applicable decrees or well permits for source water rights or source water and any return flows therefrom;
- ! In accordance with all federal, state, and local requirements; and
- ! If a local government adopts a resolution or ordinance authorizing its use.

**Sections 4 and 5** give counties and municipalities the discretion to authorize graywater use and the exclusive authority to enforce compliance with their graywater use resolutions and ordinances.

**Section 6** authorizes the board of any groundwater management district to adopt rules restricting the use of graywater treatment works. Section 6 also permits a person using a small capacity well within a designated basin to use graywater, subject to the limitations on use contained in the well permit.

**Sections 7, 8, and 10** authorize a person withdrawing water from a well to use graywater, subject to the limitations on use contained in the well permit or, if applicable, in an approved replacement plan or a decreed plan of augmentation.

**Section 9** concerns graywater use by water users served by a municipality's or water district's water supplies. The graywater must be used for purposes that are permissible under the municipality's or water district's water rights. Such use of graywater is not reuse and is deemed not to cause injury.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly

3 hereby:

1 (a) Recognizes that increasing the economic well-being of the  
2 state by ensuring adequate future water supplies is one of the general  
3 assembly's highest priorities and greatest responsibilities;

4 (b) Determines that reducing per capita residential, commercial,  
5 and industrial demands for potable water is one of the important public  
6 policy strategies required for meeting Colorado's future water demands;

7 (c) Finds that innovative uses of existing technologies, such as  
8 graywater treatment systems, will:

9 (I) Play an important role in reducing per capita consumption of  
10 water;

11 (II) Enable significantly greater efficiencies in the use of water  
12 within facilities; and

13 (III) Have the potential to reduce water and wastewater treatment  
14 costs and energy consumption; and

15 (d) Declares that:

16 (I) The greater public interest is served by policies that promote  
17 greater efficiency in the first use of water within residential, commercial,  
18 and industrial facilities; and

19 (II) Policies allowing the use of graywater systems, while  
20 preserving the health, safety, and welfare of Coloradans, represent one  
21 strategy available for achieving greater efficiency in the use of the state's  
22 vital water resources.

23 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-8-103, **add** (8.3)  
24 and (8.4) as follows:

25 **25-8-103. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context  
26 otherwise requires:

27 (8.3) "GRAYWATER" MEANS THAT PORTION OF WASTEWATER

1 THAT, BEFORE BEING TREATED OR COMBINED WITH OTHER WASTEWATER,  
2 IS COLLECTED FROM FIXTURES WITHIN RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, OR  
3 INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS OR INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
4 BEING PUT TO BENEFICIAL USES AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMISSION IN  
5 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 25-8-205 (1) (g). SOURCES OF GRAYWATER  
6 MAY INCLUDE DISCHARGES FROM BATHROOM AND LAUNDRY ROOM SINKS,  
7 BATHTUBS, SHOWERS, LAUNDRY MACHINES, AND OTHER SOURCES  
8 AUTHORIZED BY RULE. GRAYWATER DOES NOT INCLUDE THE WASTEWATER  
9 FROM TOILETS, URINALS, KITCHEN SINKS, DISHWASHERS, OR NONLAUNDRY  
10 UTILITY SINKS. GRAYWATER MUST BE COLLECTED IN A MANNER THAT  
11 MINIMIZES HOUSEHOLD WASTES, HUMAN EXCRETA, ANIMAL OR  
12 VEGETABLE MATTER, AND CHEMICALS THAT ARE HAZARDOUS OR TOXIC,  
13 AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION.

14 (8.4) "GRAYWATER TREATMENT WORKS" MEANS AN  
15 ARRANGEMENT OF DEVICES AND STRUCTURES USED TO:

16 (a) COLLECT GRAYWATER FROM WITHIN A BUILDING OR A  
17 FACILITY; AND

18 (b) TREAT, NEUTRALIZE, OR STABILIZE GRAYWATER WITHIN THE  
19 SAME BUILDING OR FACILITY TO THE LEVEL NECESSARY FOR ITS  
20 AUTHORIZED USES.

21 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-8-205, **add** (1) (g)  
22 as follows:

23 **25-8-205. Control regulations.** (1) The commission may  
24 promulgate control regulations for the following purposes:

25 (g) (I) TO DESCRIBE REQUIREMENTS, PROHIBITIONS, AND  
26 STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF GRAYWATER FOR NONDRINKING PURPOSES,  
27 TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF GRAYWATER, AND TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

1 AND WATER QUALITY.

2 (II) GRAYWATER MAY BE USED ONLY IN AREAS WHERE THE LOCAL  
3 CITY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR COUNTY HAS ADOPTED AN ORDINANCE OR  
4 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE USE OF GRAYWATER PURSUANT TO SECTION  
5 30-11-107 (1) (kk) OR 31-15-601 (1) (m), C.R.S. THE CITY, CITY AND  
6 COUNTY, OR COUNTY THAT HAS ADOPTED AN ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION  
7 APPROVING THE USE OF GRAYWATER PURSUANT TO SECTION 30-11-107 (1)  
8 (kk) OR 31-15-601 (1) (m), C.R.S., HAS EXCLUSIVE ENFORCEMENT  
9 AUTHORITY REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE OR  
10 RESOLUTION.

11 (III) USE OF GRAYWATER SHALL BE ALLOWED ONLY IN  
12 ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DECREES,  
13 CONTRACTS, AND WELL PERMITS APPLICABLE TO THE USE OF THE SOURCE  
14 WATER RIGHTS OR SOURCE WATER AND ANY RETURN FLOWS THEREFROM,  
15 AND NO USE OF GRAYWATER SHALL BE ALLOWED THAT WOULD NOT BE  
16 ALLOWED UNDER SUCH DECREES, CONTRACTS, OR PERMITS IF THE  
17 GRAYWATER ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION DID NOT EXIST.

18 (IV) A LOCAL CITY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR COUNTY MAY ONLY  
19 AUTHORIZE THE USE OF GRAYWATER IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL,  
20 STATE, AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS.

21 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 30-11-107, **add** (1)  
22 (kk) as follows:

23 **30-11-107. Powers of the board.** (1) The board of county  
24 commissioners of each county has power at any meeting:

25 (kk) TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE, IN CONSULTATION  
26 WITH THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH, LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES,  
27 AND ANY WATER AND SANITATION SERVICE PROVIDERS SERVING THE

1 COUNTY, THE USE OF GRAYWATER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 25-8-103 (8.3),  
2 C.R.S., IN COMPLIANCE WITH ANY REGULATION ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
3 SECTION 25-8-205 (1) (g), C.R.S., AND TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE WITH  
4 THE BOARD'S RESOLUTION.

5 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 31-15-601, **add** (1)  
6 (m) as follows:

7 **31-15-601. Building and fire regulations - emission**  
8 **performance standards required.** (1) The governing bodies of  
9 municipalities have the following powers in relation to building and fire  
10 regulations:

11 (m) TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE, IN CONSULTATION  
12 WITH THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH, LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES,  
13 AND ANY WATER AND SANITATION SERVICE PROVIDERS SERVING THE  
14 MUNICIPALITY, THE USE OF GRAYWATER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 25-8-103  
15 (8.3), C.R.S., IN COMPLIANCE WITH ANY REGULATION ADOPTED PURSUANT  
16 TO SECTION 25-8-205 (1) (g), C.R.S., AND TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE WITH  
17 THE GOVERNING BODY'S ORDINANCE.

18 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-90-105, **amend**  
19 (7); and **add** (8) as follows:

20 **37-90-105. Small capacity wells.** (7) (a) The board of ~~any~~  
21 ~~ground water~~ A GROUNDWATER management district ~~has the authority to~~  
22 MAY adopt rules that further restrict the issuance of small capacity well  
23 permits and use of rooftop precipitation collection systems OR  
24 GRAYWATER TREATMENT WORKS. In addition, the board of ~~any ground~~  
25 ~~water~~ A GROUNDWATER management district ~~has the authority to~~ MAY  
26 adopt rules that expand the acre-foot limitations for small capacity wells  
27 set forth in this section. However, ~~in no event~~ THE BOARD OF A

1 GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT shall NOT ALLOW an annual  
2 volume of more than eighty acre-feet ~~be allowed~~ for any small capacity  
3 well.

4 (b) THE BOARD MAY INSTITUTE ITS rules ~~adopted by the board may~~  
5 ~~be instituted~~ only after a public hearing. ~~Notice~~ THE BOARD SHALL  
6 PUBLISH NOTICE of ~~such~~ THE hearing, ~~shall be published. Such notice shall~~  
7 ~~state~~ STATING the time and place of the hearing and ~~describe~~ DESCRIBING,  
8 in general terms, the rules proposed. Within sixty days after ~~such~~ THE  
9 hearing, the board shall announce the rules adopted and shall ~~cause~~  
10 PUBLISH notice of ~~such~~ THE action. ~~to be published.~~ In addition, the board  
11 shall mail, within five days after the adoption of the rules, a copy of the  
12 rules to the state engineer.

13 (c) Any party adversely affected or aggrieved by ~~such~~ a rule may,  
14 not later than thirty days after the last date of publication, initiate judicial  
15 review in accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ section 24-4-106, C.R.S.;  
16 except that venue for ~~such~~ judicial review ~~shall~~ OF THE RULE MUST be in  
17 the district court for the county in which the office of the ~~ground-water~~  
18 GROUNDWATER management district is located.

19 (8) A PERSON WITHDRAWING WATER FROM A WELL PURSUANT TO  
20 PARAGRAPH (a) OR (c) OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION MAY USE  
21 GRAYWATER THROUGH USE OF A GRAYWATER TREATMENT WORKS, AS  
22 THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SECTION 25-8-103 (8.3) AND (8.4), C.R.S.,  
23 FOR THE USES AUTHORIZED BY THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL  
24 COMMISSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-8-205 (1) (g), C.R.S. ANY  
25 LIMITATIONS ON USE SET FORTH IN THE WELL PERMIT APPLY TO THE USE OF  
26 GRAYWATER.

27 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-90-107, **add** (5.5)

1 as follows:

2 **37-90-107. Application for use of groundwater - publication**  
3 **of notice - conditional permit - hearing on objections - well permits.**

4 (5.5) A PERSON WITHDRAWING WATER FROM A WELL PURSUANT TO  
5 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION MAY USE GRAYWATER THROUGH USE OF  
6 A GRAYWATER TREATMENT WORKS, AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN  
7 SECTION 25-8-103 (8.3) AND (8.4), C.R.S., FOR THE USES AUTHORIZED BY  
8 THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION PURSUANT TO SECTION  
9 25-8-205 (1) (g), C.R.S. ANY LIMITATIONS ON USE SET FORTH IN THE WELL  
10 PERMIT, OR IN THE PROVISIONS OF ANY APPROVED REPLACEMENT PLAN,  
11 APPLY TO THE USE OF GRAYWATER.

12 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-90-137, **add** (15)  
13 as follows:

14 **37-90-137. Permits to construct wells outside designated**  
15 **basins - fees - permit no groundwater right - evidence - time**  
16 **limitation - well permits - rules - repeal.** (15) A PERSON WITHDRAWING  
17 WATER FROM A WELL PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OR (4) OF THIS  
18 SECTION MAY USE GRAYWATER THROUGH THE USE OF A GRAYWATER  
19 TREATMENT WORKS, AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SECTION 25-8-103  
20 (8.3) AND (8.4), C.R.S., FOR THE USES AUTHORIZED BY THE WATER  
21 QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-8-205 (1) (g),  
22 C.R.S. ANY LIMITATIONS ON USE SET FORTH IN THE WELL PERMIT, AND  
23 THE PROVISIONS OF ANY DECREED PLAN FOR AUGMENTATION, APPLY TO  
24 THE USE OF GRAYWATER.

25 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-92-102, **add** (7)  
26 as follows:

27 **37-92-102. Legislative declaration - basic tenets of Colorado**



1 **water law.** (7) (a) WATER USERS SERVED BY A MUNICIPALITY'S OR WATER  
2 DISTRICT'S WATER SUPPLIES MAY USE GRAYWATER AND INSTALL  
3 GRAYWATER TREATMENT WORKS, AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN  
4 SECTION 25-8-103 (8.3) AND (8.4), C.R.S., IF:

5 (I) THE USE OF GRAYWATER IS LIMITED TO THE CONFINES OF THE  
6 OPERATION THAT GENERATES THE GRAYWATER; AND

7 (II) GRAYWATER IS USED FOR PURPOSES THAT ARE PERMISSIBLE  
8 UNDER THE MUNICIPALITY'S OR WATER DISTRICT'S WATER RIGHTS.

9 (b) THE USE OF GRAYWATER IN APPLICATIONS PERMITTED BY A  
10 MUNICIPALITY'S OR WATER DISTRICT'S WELL PERMITS AND WATER RIGHTS  
11 IS NOT REUSE AND IS DEEMED NOT TO CAUSE INJURY.

12 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-92-602, **add**  
13 (1.5) as follows:

14 **37-92-602. Exemptions - presumptions - legislative**  
15 **declaration.** (1.5) A PERSON WITHDRAWING WATER FROM A WELL  
16 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY USE GRAYWATER THROUGH USE OF A  
17 GRAYWATER TREATMENT WORKS, AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN  
18 SECTION 25-8-103 (8.3) AND (8.4), C.R.S., FOR THE USES AUTHORIZED BY  
19 THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION PURSUANT TO SECTION  
20 25-8-205 (1) (g), C.R.S. ANY LIMITATIONS ON USE SET FORTH IN THE WELL  
21 PERMIT APPLY TO THE USE OF GRAYWATER.

22 **SECTION 11. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
23 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
24 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.