

**UPDATED SUMMARY  
HOUSE BILL 15-1166**

**First Regular Session - Seventieth Colorado General Assembly**

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*This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house. It does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. This summary reflects only the main points of the legislation.*

In 2012, the general assembly enacted House Bill 12-1278, which directed the Colorado water conservation board to contract with the Colorado Water Institute to conduct a study of the South Platte river alluvial aquifer. Recommendation 3.B. of the final study report was to implement a basin-wide groundwater monitoring network.

**Section 1** of the bill directs the state engineer, in consultation with the board, to design and operate a tributary groundwater monitoring network in the South Platte river alluvial aquifer. The monitoring network consists of the following components:

- ! Groundwater wells to be used for monitoring groundwater levels with the goal of identifying ambient groundwater conditions and anthropogenic influences on the aquifer, including:
  - ! The existing division of water resources groundwater monitoring network, the addition of data loggers on up to 20 existing wells in the network, and up to 10 wells to be added to the network in areas where there are data gaps;
  - ! Wells that are part of an independent monitoring network and owned by qualified parties other than the division of water resources who submit their groundwater monitoring data to the monitoring network; and
  - ! ~~Wells that are owned or operated by a state agency, water conservancy district, special district, county, municipality, or other unit of state or local government and~~ *Other wells* designated by the state engineer;
- ! Data analysis standards and protocols established by the state engineer; and
- ! Dissemination of the monitoring data on the division's web site.

~~**Section 2** authorizes the use of the water resources cash fund to pay for the operation and maintenance of the network, and **section 3** authorizes the use of the Colorado water conservation board construction fund to pay for the construction and maintenance of the network.~~

***Section 3** appropriates \$60,000 from the Colorado water conservation board construction fund to the department of natural resources for use by the water resources division for implementation of the bill.*