

**LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0281
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Roberts; Hodge
 Rep. Vigil; Coram

Date: January 28, 2014
Bill Status: Senate Agriculture
Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

SHORT TITLE: LIMIT USE OF AG WATER FOR LAWN IRRIGATION

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill prohibits a local government from approving certain land use development permits unless the local government has adopted an enforceable resolution or ordinance that limits the amount of irrigated grass in the development to no more than 15 percent of the total aggregate area of all residential lots. This limit applies when any part of the proposed water supply for the development was changed from agricultural irrigation purposes to municipal or domestic use and the change of use application was filed in water court on or after January 1, 2016. The limit does not apply to irrigation with raw water.

Local Government Impact

This bill will increase expenditures for local governments where subdivision and other development is occurring that seeks to change agricultural irrigation water to water for irrigated grass. Initially, local governments will have increased expenditures for the development and adoption of the enforceable resolution or ordinance. This includes legal fees, publication of notices, and hearing costs. After January 1, 2016, local governments will have ongoing costs to inspect new development to ensure that they adhere to the 15 percent limit on irrigated grass. The amount of these costs cannot be determined and are expected to vary among local governments.

Effective Date

The bill is effective January 1, 2016 unless a referendum petition is filed and applies to all development permits associated with change in use cases filed in water court on or after the effective date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Judicial

Municipalities
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Local Affairs