

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-sixth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**ENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 08-0572.02 Thomas Morris

**HOUSE BILL 08-1141**

---

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Curry,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Bacon,**

---

**House Committees**

Local Government  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING SUFFICIENT WATER SUPPLIES FOR LAND USE APPROVAL.**

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Requires a local government to make a determination as to whether an applicant for a real estate development permit for a development in excess of 50 units or single-family equivalents has demonstrated that the proposed water supply is sufficient and sustainable to serve the peak daily, monthly, and yearly water supply requirements of the proposed development. Requires the applicant to submit a report prepared by a registered professional engineer regarding the proposed development's water demand. Specifies the criteria pursuant to which the local government must determine whether the applicant has demonstrated

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.*

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 9, 2008

a sufficient and sustainable water supply, including:

- ! A letter from the state engineer commenting on the report by the professional engineer and determining whether the proposed water supply is sufficient and sustainable; and
- ! A letter from the development's water supplier summarizing the supplier's water portfolio.

---

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

2 **SECTION 1.** 29-20-103 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
3 amended to read:

4 **29-20-103. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context  
5 otherwise requires:

6 (1) "Development permit" means any preliminary or final  
7 approval of an application for rezoning, planned unit development,  
8 conditional or special use permit, subdivision, development or site plan,  
9 or similar application for new construction; EXCEPT THAT, FOR PURPOSES  
10 OF PART 3 OF THIS ARTICLE, "DEVELOPMENT PERMIT" IS LIMITED TO AN  
11 APPLICATION REGARDING A SPECIFIC PROJECT THAT INCLUDES NEW WATER  
12 USE IN AN AMOUNT MORE THAN THAT USED BY FIFTY SINGLE-FAMILY  
13 EQUIVALENTS, OR FEWER AS DETERMINED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

14 **SECTION 2.** Article 20 of title 29, Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PART to read:

16 **PART 3**

17 **ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY**

18 **29-20-301. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY:

20 (a) FINDS THAT, DUE TO THE BROAD REGIONAL IMPACT THAT  
21 SECURING AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF WATER TO SERVE PROPOSED LAND  
22 DEVELOPMENT CAN HAVE BOTH WITHIN AND BETWEEN RIVER BASINS, IT IS

1 IMPERATIVE THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BE PROVIDED WITH RELIABLE  
2 INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS'  
3 WATER SUPPLY TO INFORM LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE EXERCISE OF  
4 THEIR DISCRETION IN THE ISSUANCE OF DEVELOPMENT PERMITS; AND

5 (b) TO THAT END, DECLARES THAT WHILE LAND USE AND  
6 DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL DECISIONS ARE MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN,  
7 THE ENACTMENT OF THIS PART 3, TO HELP ENSURE THE ADEQUACY OF  
8 WATER FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS, IS A MATTER OF STATEWIDE CONCERN  
9 AND NECESSARY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND  
10 WELFARE AND THE ENVIRONMENT OF COLORADO.

11 **29-20-302. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 3, UNLESS THE  
12 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

13 (1) "ADEQUATE" MEANS A WATER SUPPLY THAT WILL BE  
14 SUFFICIENT FOR BUILD-OUT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN TERMS OF  
15 QUALITY, QUANTITY, DEPENDABILITY, AND PHYSICAL AND LEGAL  
16 AVAILABILITY TO PROVIDE A SUPPLY OF WATER FOR THE TYPE OF  
17 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED, AND MAY INCLUDE REASONABLE  
18 CONSERVATION MEASURES AND WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT MEASURES  
19 TO ACCOUNT FOR HYDROLOGIC VARIABILITY.

20 (2) "WATER SUPPLY ENTITY" MEANS A MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY,  
21 SPECIAL DISTRICT, WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT, WATER  
22 CONSERVATION DISTRICT, WATER AUTHORITY, OR OTHER PUBLIC OR  
23 PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY COMPANY THAT SUPPLIES, DISTRIBUTES, OR  
24 OTHERWISE PROVIDES WATER AT RETAIL.

25 **29-20-303. Adequate water supply for development.** (1) A  
26 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHALL NOT APPROVE AN APPLICATION FOR A  
27 DEVELOPMENT PERMIT UNLESS IT DETERMINES IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION,

1 AFTER CONSIDERING THE APPLICATION AND ALL OF THE INFORMATION  
2 PROVIDED, THAT THE APPLICANT HAS SATISFACTORILY DEMONSTRATED  
3 THAT THE PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY WILL BE ADEQUATE. A LOCAL  
4 GOVERNMENT SHALL MAKE SUCH DETERMINATION ONLY ONCE DURING  
5 THE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPROVAL PROCESS UNLESS THE WATER  
6 DEMANDS OR SUPPLY OF THE SPECIFIC PROJECT FOR WHICH THE  
7 DEVELOPMENT PERMIT IS SOUGHT ARE MATERIALLY CHANGED. A LOCAL  
8 GOVERNMENT SHALL HAVE THE DISCRETION TO DETERMINE THE STAGE IN  
9 THE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPROVAL PROCESS AT WHICH SUCH  
10 DETERMINATION IS MADE.

11 (2) NOTHING IN THIS PART 3 SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE  
12 THAT THE APPLICANT OWN OR HAVE ACQUIRED THE PROPOSED WATER  
13 SUPPLY OR CONSTRUCTED THE RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE TIME OF  
14 THE APPLICATION.

15 **29-20-304. Water supply requirements.** (1) EXCEPT AS  
16 SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SECTION, AN APPLICANT  
17 FOR A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT SHALL SUBMIT ESTIMATED WATER SUPPLY  
18 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN A REPORT PREPARED  
19 BY A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER OR WATER SUPPLY EXPERT  
20 ACCEPTABLE TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT. THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

21 (a) AN ESTIMATE OF THE WATER SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
22 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BUILD-OUT CONDITIONS;

23 (b) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY  
24 THAT WILL BE USED TO SERVE THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT;

25 (c) AN ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT OF WATER YIELD PROJECTED  
26 FROM THE PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY UNDER VARIOUS HYDROLOGIC  
27 CONDITIONS;

1 (d) WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES, IF ANY, THAT MAY BE  
2 IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT;

3 (e) WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT MEASURES, IF ANY, THAT MAY  
4 BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT TO ACCOUNT FOR  
5 HYDROLOGIC VARIABILITY; AND

6 (f) SUCH OTHER INFORMATION AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE  
7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

8 (2) IF THE DEVELOPMENT IS TO BE SERVED BY A WATER SUPPLY  
9 ENTITY, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY ALLOW THE APPLICANT TO SUBMIT,  
10 IN LIEU OF THE REPORT REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, A  
11 LETTER PREPARED BY A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER OR BY A  
12 WATER SUPPLY EXPERT FROM THE WATER SUPPLY ENTITY STATING THE  
13 WATER SUPPLY ENTITY'S COMMITMENT AND ABILITY TO PROVIDE AN  
14 ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT. AT A  
15 MINIMUM, THE LETTER SHALL INCLUDE:

16 (a) AN ESTIMATE OF THE WATER SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
17 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BUILD-OUT CONDITIONS;

18 (b) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY  
19 THAT WILL BE USED TO SERVE THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT;

20 (c) AN ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT OF WATER YIELD PROJECTED  
21 FROM THE PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY UNDER VARIOUS HYDROLOGIC  
22 CONDITIONS;

23 (d) WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES, IF ANY, THAT MAY BE  
24 IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT;

25 (e) WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT MEASURES, IF ANY, THAT MAY  
26 BE IMPLEMENTED TO ADDRESS HYDROLOGIC VARIATIONS; AND

27 (f) SUCH OTHER INFORMATION AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE

1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

2 (3) IN THE ALTERNATIVE, THE PERMITTING AUTHORITY MAY  
3 DETERMINE THAT NO LETTER OR REPORT IDENTIFIED PURSUANT TO  
4 SUBSECTIONS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE REQUIRED FROM THE  
5 APPLICANT IF WATER FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS TO BE  
6 PROVIDED BY A WATER SUPPLY ENTITY THAT HAS A WATER SUPPLY PLAN  
7 THAT IS ON FILE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR PERMITTING  
8 AUTHORITY.

9 **29-20-305. Determination of adequate water supply.** (1) THE  
10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S SOLE DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER AN  
11 APPLICANT HAS A WATER SUPPLY THAT IS ADEQUATE TO MEET THE WATER  
12 SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS OF A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SHALL BE BASED  
13 ON CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

14 (a) THE DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY SECTION 29-20-304;

15 (b) IF REQUESTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, A LETTER FROM  
16 THE STATE ENGINEER COMMENTING ON THE DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED  
17 PURSUANT TO SECTION 29-20-304;

18 (c) WHETHER THE APPLICANT HAS PAID TO A WATER SUPPLY  
19 ENTITY A FEE OR CHARGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING WATER FOR OR  
20 EXPANDING OR CONSTRUCTING THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE THE  
21 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT; AND

22 (d) ANY OTHER INFORMATION DEEMED RELEVANT BY THE LOCAL  
23 GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, WHETHER THE  
24 WATER SUPPLY FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS ADEQUATE,  
25 INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE  
26 SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE LOCAL  
27 GOVERNMENT LAND USE REGULATIONS OR STATE STATUTES.

1           **SECTION 3. Applicability.** This act shall apply to applications  
2 for development permits submitted on or after the effective date of this  
3 act.

4           **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.