

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-sixth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 08-0500.01 Thomas Morris

HOUSE BILL 08-1026

---

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**Fischer**, Kefalas, McGihon, Solano, Levy, Butcher, and Carroll M.

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

---

House Committees

Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

---

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101     **CONCERNING THE COLORADO WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH**  
102             **INSTITUTE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CHANGING THE**  
103             **NAME OF THE INSTITUTE TO THE COLORADO WATER INSTITUTE,**  
104             **EXPANDING THE DUTIES OF THE INSTITUTE, AND AUTHORIZING**  
105             **THE INSTITUTE AS A CONTRACTING ENTITY FOR WATER**  
106             **RESEARCH.**

---

**Bill Summary**

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

Changes the name of the Colorado water resources research institute to the Colorado water institute (institute). Expands the purposes

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.*

and duties of the institute. Authorizes state funds made available for water research to pass through the fiscal control of the institute. Authorizes the institute to assess an administrative fee not to exceed 20% of the total cost of the project being administered by the institute.

Designates the executive directors of the departments of natural resources and public health and environment as members of the advisory committee on water research policy. Repeals the limitation of the use of the general fund for the institute.

---

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

2 **SECTION 1.** 23-31-801, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
3 to read:

4 **23-31-801. Colorado water institute - creation.** (1) There is  
5 hereby created the Colorado water ~~resources research~~ institute, referred  
6 to in this part 8 as the "institute", for the FOLLOWING purposes:

7 (a) ~~of~~ Developing, implementing, and coordinating A STATEWIDE  
8 COLLABORATORY FOR water and water-related research programs ~~in the~~  
9 ~~state~~ and transferring the results of research and new technologies to  
10 potential users;

11 (b) CREATING AND OPERATING A WATER RESEARCH INFORMATION  
12 AND EDUCATION CENTER AS A STATEWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE AND ARCHIVE  
13 FOR WATER RESOURCES, WATER QUALITY, AND WATER-RELATED POLICY  
14 AND CLIMATE ISSUES;

15 (c) TRAINING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF WATER SCIENTISTS,  
16 MANAGERS, PLANNERS, AND EDUCATORS; AND

17 (d) SERVING COLORADO'S NEEDS FOR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION  
18 AND ANALYSIS IN AREAS OF SURFACE WATER AND GROUND WATER  
19 HYDROLOGY, WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, WATER QUALITY AND  
20 AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION, WATER HISTORY AND  
21 PALEOHYDROLOGY, DROUGHT PLANNING AND MITIGATION, AND CLIMATE

1 CHANGE AND ADAPTATION.

2 (2) The institute shall be a unit of the Colorado state university  
3 under the supervision and control of the university's administration and  
4 the board of governors of the Colorado state university system.

5 (3) The principal administrative officer of the institute shall be a  
6 director, who shall be appointed by the president of the Colorado state  
7 university with the approval of the board of governors of the Colorado  
8 state university system and who shall be under the direct supervision of  
9 the president of Colorado state university or a vice-president thereof  
10 designated by the president. To meet the purposes of the institute, the  
11 director, with the advice of the advisory committee established pursuant  
12 to section 23-31-802, shall develop appropriate policies and procedures  
13 for identification of priority research problems; for collaborating with  
14 water MANAGERS AND user associations, DROUGHT AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
15 PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS, other universities, federal, state, and local  
16 government agencies, and the general assembly in the formulation of its  
17 research program; for selection of projects to be funded; and for the  
18 dissemination of information and transfer of technology ~~which~~ THAT is  
19 produced by the research.

20 (4) It is the duty of the institute to:

21 (a) Consult with state and local government agencies, water  
22 MANAGERS AND user associations, DROUGHT AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
23 PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER QUALITY  
24 PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS, the general assembly, and other potential  
25 users of research in identifying and prioritizing ~~water problems for~~  
26 ~~research~~ THE STATE'S WATER RESEARCH NEEDS;

27 (b) Negotiate and administer contracts with other universities of

1 the state for the conduct of research projects;

2 (c) Disseminate new information and facilitate transfer and  
3 application of new technologies as they are developed;

4 (d) Provide for liaison between Colorado and the federal research  
5 funding agencies as an advocate for ~~Colorado~~ COLORADO'S water  
6 research needs;

7 (e) Facilitate and stimulate research, SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION,  
8 AND ANALYSIS that:

9 (I) Deals with policy issues facing the general assembly;

10 (II) Supports state water, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
11 PROTECTION agencies' missions with research on problems encountered  
12 and expected, SUCH AS THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WATER  
13 QUALITY, WATER AVAILABILITY, RUN-OFF TIMING, DROUGHT PLANNING,  
14 AND FUTURE COMPACT COMPLIANCE;

15 (III) Provides water planning and management organizations with  
16 tools to increase efficiency and effectiveness of water planning and  
17 management;

18 (IV) ENGAGES AND TRAINS FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THE STATE'S  
19 WATER PROFESSIONALS AND EDUCATORS; AND

20 (V) EXAMINES THE INTERCONNECTIONS BETWEEN CLIMATE  
21 CHANGE, WATER SUPPLY, AND WATER QUALITY AND PROVIDES THE TOOLS  
22 NEEDED BY WATER MANAGERS AND POLICYMAKERS FOR ADAPTING TO  
23 GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE;

24 (f) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A CLEARINGHOUSE AND ARCHIVE OF  
25 WATER RESEARCH, WATER QUALITY, AND CLIMATE PROJECTION DATA.

26 (5) The institute is authorized to employ such professional,  
27 clerical, and other personnel needed to carry out the provisions of this

1 part 8.

2 (6) The institute is authorized to expend state funds appropriated  
3 by the general assembly for cost-sharing on projects funded with federal  
4 or private moneys.

5 (7) STATE FUNDS GRANTED, APPROPRIATED, OR OTHERWISE MADE  
6 AVAILABLE FOR WATER RESEARCH IN THE STATE MAY PASS THROUGH THE  
7 FISCAL CONTROL OF THE INSTITUTE. THE INSTITUTE SHALL BE  
8 AUTHORIZED AS A CONTRACTING ENTITY WITH STATE AGENCIES THAT  
9 SEEK TO UTILIZE COLORADO UNIVERSITIES OR COLLEGES FOR WATER  
10 RESEARCH. AS SUCH, THE INSTITUTE SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO ACCEPT  
11 GRANTS, DONATIONS, APPROPRIATIONS, AND OTHER FUNDING FROM ANY  
12 ENTITY. THE INSTITUTE MAY PROVIDE OVERSIGHT FOR SUCH FUNDING BY  
13 ENSURING RESEARCH PROJECTS COMMENCE AND ARE COMPLETED WITHIN  
14 THE SCOPE OF AGREEMENTS, INVOICES, CONTRACTS, PURCHASE ORDERS,  
15 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS, OR OTHER FISCAL DEVICES USED TO  
16 FUND RESEARCH. THE INSTITUTE IS AUTHORIZED TO ASSESS A FEE TO  
17 IMPLEMENT ITS ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY. SUCH FEE MAY NOT EXCEED  
18 TWENTY PERCENT OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT BEING  
19 ADMINISTERED BY THE INSTITUTE. THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CREATED  
20 IN SECTION 23-31-802 SHALL ANNUALLY REVIEW AND ESTABLISH THE  
21 ADMINISTRATION FEE.

22 **SECTION 2.** 23-31-802, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
23 to read:

24 **23-31-802. Advisory committee on water research policy.**

25 (1) There is hereby created the advisory committee on water research  
26 policy, ~~that~~ WHICH shall consist of ~~at least~~ ten members. EIGHT OF THE  
27 TEN MEMBERS SHALL BE appointed by the director of the institute. THE

1 REMAINING MEMBERS SHALL BE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
2 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT AND THE EXECUTIVE  
3 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OR THEIR  
4 DESIGNEES.

5 (2) APPOINTED members of the advisory committee shall serve  
6 terms of four years. Members shall serve without compensation and are  
7 not entitled to reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of  
8 their duties.

9 (3) The advisory committee shall recommend policy guidelines for  
10 implementing the functions of the institute, SHALL CONFER WITH STATE  
11 GOVERNMENTAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO SET COLORADO'S  
12 WATER RESEARCH PRIORITIES, and shall evaluate the programs of the  
13 institute. The advisory committee shall also advise and counsel the  
14 director of the institute and shall make recommendations to assist the  
15 director in carrying out the purposes of this part 8.

16 **SECTION 3.** 23-31-803, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
17 to read:

18 **23-31-803. Water research fund.** (1) There is hereby  
19 established in the state treasury the water research fund, referred to in this  
20 part 8 as the "fund". The fund shall consist of FEES RECEIVED BY THE  
21 INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-31-801 (7) AND gifts, grants, and  
22 donations accepted by the institute. The moneys in the fund are hereby  
23 continuously appropriated to the institute, and the institute may expend  
24 moneys from the fund for any purpose consistent with this article. Any  
25 interest derived from the deposit and investment of moneys in the fund  
26 shall be credited to the fund. At the end of any fiscal year, all  
27 unexpended and unencumbered moneys in the fund shall remain therein

1 and shall not be credited or transferred to the general fund or any other  
2 fund.

3 (2) ~~It is the intent of the general assembly that no general fund~~  
4 ~~dollars be appropriated for the water resources research institute.~~

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