



Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

NO FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 09-0389

Date: February 12, 2009

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Vigil

Bill Status: House Agriculture

Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF ACEQUIAS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING ACEQUIA WATER DISTRICTS.

Summary of Legislation

This bill allows for the creation of acequia water conservancy districts and subdistricts, and acequia conservancy districts and subdistricts (acequia conservancy districts) in Costilla, Conejos, Huerfano, and Las Animas counties and specifies the eligibility and other requirements necessary for creation. It also allows an existing water conservancy or conservancy district to convert to an acequia conservancy district if it meets eligibility requirements. An acequia is defined as a community irrigation ditch that originated in Spanish law and land grants prior to Colorado's statehood. The bill is effective upon signature of the governor or upon becoming law without his signature.

Assessment

HB09-1233 is assessed at no fiscal impact. Petitions requesting the creation or conversion of an acequia conservancy district must be filed with a district water court and the court must hold a hearing and determine if the requirements have been met to create a new district or convert an existing one. The bill only authorizes the creation of acequia conservancy districts in 4 counties so the expected increase in court workload is minimal and can be addressed within existing appropriations.

Departments Contacted

Natural Resources

Judicial