



Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
REVISED NO FISCAL IMPACT

(replaces fiscal note dated February 27, 2009)

Drafting Number: LLS 09-0389

Date: March 9, 2009

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Vigil
Sen. Schwartz

Bill Status: Senate Local Government and Energy
Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF ACEQUIAS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING ACEQUIA DITCH CORPORATIONS.

Summary of Legislation

The reengrossed bill allows for the creation of acequia ditch corporations and the conversion of an existing ditch corporation to an acequia ditch corporation. The irrigated land must be located wholly in one or more of the counties of Costilla, Conejos, Huerfano, and Las Animas. 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 ditch corporation must be filed with a district water court. The court must hold a hearing to determine if the requirements have been met to create a new corporation or convert an existing one. The bill only authorizes the creation of acequia ditch corporations in 4 counties so the expected increase in court workload is minimal and can be addressed within existing appropriations.

Departments Contacted

Natural Resources

Judicial