

First Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

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

LLS NO. 13-0166.01 Jery Payne x2157

SENATE BILL 13-150

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Harvey, Schwartz

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

May,

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Senate Committees

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy  
Appropriations

House Committees

Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources  
Appropriations

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE WATER AND WASTEWATER  
102 FACILITY OPERATORS CERTIFICATION BOARD, AND, IN  
103 CONNECTION THEREWITH, IMPLEMENTING THE  
104 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2012 SUNSET REPORT BY THE  
105 DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

Sunset Process - Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources, and

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  
2nd Reading Unamended  
April 19, 2013

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 6, 2013

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 5, 2013

**Energy Committee.** The bill continues the water and wastewater facility operators certification board (board) until 2020 and implements recommendations in the sunset report:

! Currently, one member of the board represents the Colorado rural water association. This member is replaced with a representative of water facilities serving less than 3,300 people.

! Currently, the board may exempt industrial wastewater facilities from having a certified operator if the exemption does not endanger public health or the environment. This authority is expanded to include nonindustrial facilities and water facilities.

! Certain statutes are reorganized.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **amend**  
3 (44) introductory portion and (51.5) introductory portion; **repeal** (44) (j);  
4 and **add** (51.5) (d) as follows:

5 **24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies**  
6 **and functions for termination, continuation, or reestablishment.**

7 (44) The following agencies, functions, or both, ~~shall~~ terminate on July  
8 1, 2013:

9 ~~(j) The water and wastewater facility operators certification board;~~  
10 ~~created by section 25-9-103, C.R.S.;~~

11 (51.5) The following agencies, functions, or both, ~~shall~~ terminate  
12 on September 1, 2020:

13 (d) THE WATER AND WASTEWATER FACILITY OPERATORS  
14 CERTIFICATION BOARD, CREATED BY SECTION 25-9-103, C.R.S.;

15 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-9-103, **amend** (4)  
16 as follows:

17 **25-9-103. Water and wastewater facility operators**  
18 **certification board - composition - repeal of article.** (4) This article is

1 repealed, effective ~~July 1, 2013~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2020. Prior to ~~such~~ THE  
2 repeal, the water and wastewater facility operators certification board  
3 shall be reviewed as provided for in section 24-34-104, C.R.S.

4 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-9-103, **amend** (1)  
5 introductory portion and (1) (f) as follows:

6 **25-9-103. Water and wastewater facility operators**  
7 **certification board - composition - repeal of article.** (1) There is  
8 hereby created the water and wastewater facility operators certification  
9 board, which ~~shall constitute~~ CONSTITUTES a section of the division of  
10 administration of the department and ~~shall consist~~ CONSISTS of the  
11 following ten members:

12 (f) A representative from the Colorado rural water association OF  
13 WATER OR WASTEWATER FACILITIES SERVING RURAL AREAS; and

14 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 25-9-104 as  
15 follows:

16 **25-9-104. Duties of board - rules.** (1) (a) The board shall elect  
17 a chair and secretary each year and shall establish rules in accordance  
18 with article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., setting forth the requirements governing  
19 certification for water and wastewater facility operators, including:

- 20 (I) Application for certification;
- 21 (II) Admission to the examinations;
- 22 (III) Setting and coordination of examination schedules;
- 23 (IV) Recording and issuing of certificates for the class of operator  
24 for which the applicant is found to be qualified;
- 25 (V) Renewal of certificates;
- 26 (VI) Issuance of certificates based on reciprocity;
- 27 (VII) Minimum standards of operator performance; and

1 (VIII) Standards for the accreditation of training programs. The  
2 board may select and appoint one or more independent nonprofit  
3 corporations to carry out the administration of the program and  
4 examinations, including, but not limited to, maintaining records of  
5 certified operators; notifying operators of expiration of certification;  
6 providing information on accredited training requirements; preparing and  
7 furnishing the examination material; collecting fees as set forth in section  
8 25-9-108; setting the times, dates, and places for holding examinations,  
9 one of which shall be given at least annually, in accordance with rules of  
10 the board; grading examination papers; evaluating work experience of  
11 applicants; evaluating continuing training achievements for renewal of  
12 certification; and evaluating requests for reciprocity. The board shall  
13 ensure that an office is maintained for contact with operators and  
14 employers. The board shall also ensure, through the use of subject matter  
15 experts, that all certification examinations test for information that is  
16 relevant to the knowledge that is necessary to operate the level of facility  
17 for which certification is sought. The board may adopt such rules in  
18 accordance with article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., as are necessary to ensure the  
19 proper administration of the program and shall enter into contracts with  
20 any nonprofit corporation selected or appointed by the board to ensure  
21 that each nonprofit corporation receives applications and fees, conducts  
22 such examinations as may be directed by the board, records the results  
23 thereof, notifies applicants of results, recommends issuance of  
24 certificates, provides feedback to examinees upon request following each  
25 examination, and prepares and distributes an annual report. With the  
26 permission of the board, a nonprofit corporation contracted with by the  
27 board may enter into subsidiary agreements with other nonprofit

1 corporations, educational institutions, and for-profit corporations to carry  
2 out the duties assigned by the board; except that any such subsidiary  
3 agreements shall be subject to prior approval by the board. The board  
4 shall be responsible for and shall retain the final authority for all actions  
5 and decisions carried out on behalf of the board by any such nonprofit  
6 corporation, educational institution, or for-profit corporation. Such  
7 authority shall include, but shall not be limited to, the authority to modify,  
8 suspend, or reverse any action or decision of any nonprofit corporation,  
9 educational institution, or for-profit corporation.

10 (b) In order to qualify for consideration to administer the duties  
11 set forth in this section, a nonprofit corporation must have expertise in  
12 training and testing procedures, as well as demonstrated knowledge of  
13 water and wastewater treatment, collection, and distribution systems.

14 (2) (a) The board may promote and assist in regular training  
15 schools and programs designed to aid applicants and other interested  
16 persons to acquire the necessary knowledge to meet the certification  
17 requirements of this article.

18 (b) THE BOARD SHALL ENSURE THAT AN OFFICE IS MAINTAINED FOR  
19 CONTACT WITH OPERATORS AND EMPLOYERS.

20 (c) THE BOARD SHALL ENSURE, THROUGH THE USE OF SUBJECT  
21 MATTER EXPERTS, THAT ALL CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS TEST FOR  
22 INFORMATION THAT IS RELEVANT TO THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IS NECESSARY  
23 TO OPERATE THE LEVEL OF FACILITY FOR WHICH CERTIFICATION IS  
24 SOUGHT.

25 (3) (a) The board shall establish classes of:

26 (I) Certified Water treatment facility operators;

27 (II) classes of Domestic wastewater treatment facility operators;

1 (III) ~~classes of~~ Industrial wastewater treatment facility operators;  
2 (IV) ~~classes of~~ Water distribution system operators;  
3 (V) ~~classes of~~ Wastewater collection system operators;  
4 (VI) ~~classes of~~ Operators for small systems; and  
5 (VII) ~~classes of~~ Other persons who require and qualify for  
6 multiple certifications.

7 (b) In establishing each classification, the board shall differentiate  
8 the various levels of complexity to be encountered in water and  
9 wastewater facility operation and the ~~appropriate~~ qualifications for  
10 certification for each class. The board shall set minimum education,  
11 experience, examination, and ongoing training requirements for each  
12 class.

13 (4) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 25-9-104.4, the board shall  
14 ~~maintain for~~ ESTABLISH FOR each water and wastewater facility a  
15 minimum class of certified operators required for its supervision. ~~except~~  
16 ~~that the board may exempt certain industrial wastewater treatment~~  
17 ~~facilities or classes of facilities from the requirement to operate under the~~  
18 ~~supervision of a certified operator, based upon a determination that such~~  
19 ~~an exemption is not inconsistent with the goal of assuring adequate~~  
20 ~~operation of water and wastewater facilities to protect public health and~~  
21 ~~the environment. In determining whether to provide such an exemption,~~  
22 ~~the board may consider criteria including, but not limited to:~~

- 23 (a) ~~Discharges of limited duration;~~  
24 (b) ~~The sensitivity of the receiving waters;~~  
25 (c) ~~The level of toxic pollutants in the discharge; and~~  
26 (d) ~~Situations where chemical, mechanical, or biological treatment~~  
27 ~~techniques are not required to meet permit limits, including, but not~~

1 ~~limited to, sedimentation ponds at mining operations for construction~~  
2 ~~materials, as that term is defined in section 34-32.5-103 (3), C.R.S.~~

3 (5) (a) The board shall establish a procedure whereby any decision  
4 of the board, the division, or ~~any organization performing duties on behalf~~  
5 ~~of the division~~ NONPROFIT CORPORATION CONTRACTING WITH THE BOARD  
6 can be ~~subject to appeal~~ APPEALED to the board.

7 (b) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE  
8 PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.

9 (c) THE BOARD MAY PROMULGATE RULES TO ALLOW THE DIVISION  
10 TO IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND OR REVOKE A CERTIFICATION IF IMMEDIATE  
11 ACTION IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENT.

12 (6) The board ~~shall~~ MAY exercise ~~such~~ other powers and duties as  
13 ~~are deemed~~ necessary within the scope of this article. The board ~~in~~  
14 ~~accordance with the "State Administrative Procedure Act", article 4 of~~  
15 ~~title 24, C.R.S.,~~ shall PROMULGATE RULES TO establish criteria for the  
16 discipline or reprimand of any water or wastewater facility operator and  
17 for the suspension or revocation of the certification of ~~any such~~ AN  
18 operator. ~~Such~~ THE criteria ~~shall~~ MUST include: ~~but shall not be limited~~  
19 ~~to:~~

20 (a) Willfully or negligently violating, causing, or allowing the  
21 violation of rules promulgated ~~pursuant to~~ UNDER this article or failing to  
22 comply with ~~the provisions of~~ this article;

23 (b) Submitting false or misleading information on any document  
24 provided to the department, the board, or any organization acting on  
25 behalf of the board;

26 (c) Using fraud or deception in the course of employment as an  
27 operator;

1 (d) Failing to conform with minimum standards in the  
2 performance of an operator's duties; and

3 (e) Engaging in dishonest conduct during an examination.

4 ~~(6.5) The division shall have the primary responsibility for the~~  
5 ~~investigation of instances of possible misconduct by water and~~  
6 ~~wastewater facility operators and shall report the results of any~~  
7 ~~investigation to the board and make recommendations regarding~~  
8 ~~appropriate disciplinary action to the board. The board may promulgate~~  
9 ~~rules in accordance with article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., to allow the division~~  
10 ~~to immediately suspend or revoke certifications where such immediate~~  
11 ~~action is necessary to protect the public health or environment.~~

12 (7) Members of the board shall serve without compensation but  
13 ~~shall be reimbursed~~ ARE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT for their necessary  
14 expenses.

15 (8) The board shall MAY exercise its powers and perform its duties  
16 and functions as if it were transferred to the department by a **type 1**  
17 transfer under the "Administrative Organization Act of 1968", article 1  
18 of title 24, C.R.S.

19 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-9-104.2,  
20 25-9-104.3, and 25-9-104.4 as follows:

21 **25-9-104.2. Contracting - rules.** (1) THE BOARD MAY SELECT  
22 AND APPOINT ONE OR MORE INDEPENDENT NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS TO  
23 CARRY OUT THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM AND EXAMINATIONS.  
24 THE BOARD MAY PROMULGATE A RULE ESTABLISHING THE SCOPE AND  
25 STANDARDS OF THE INDEPENDENT NONPROFIT CORPORATION'S DUTIES.  
26 THE CONTRACT MUST SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS EACH DUTY OR FUNCTION  
27 REQUIRED BY LAW.



1 (2) TO QUALIFY FOR CONSIDERATION TO ADMINISTER THE DUTIES  
2 OF THIS SECTION, A NONPROFIT CORPORATION MUST HAVE EXPERTISE IN  
3 TRAINING AND TESTING PROCEDURES AS WELL AS DEMONSTRATED  
4 KNOWLEDGE OF WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT, COLLECTION, AND  
5 DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS.

6 (3) WITH THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE BOARD FOR EACH  
7 AGREEMENT, A NONPROFIT CORPORATION CONTRACTED BY THE BOARD  
8 MAY ENTER INTO SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER NONPROFIT  
9 CORPORATIONS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR-PROFIT  
10 CORPORATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES ASSIGNED BY THE BOARD.

11 (4) THE BOARD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AND RETAINS THE FINAL  
12 AUTHORITY FOR ALL ACTIONS AND DECISIONS CARRIED OUT ON BEHALF OF  
13 THE BOARD BY A NONPROFIT CORPORATION, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION,  
14 OR FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION. THE BOARD MAY MODIFY, SUSPEND, OR  
15 REVERSE ANY ACTION OR DECISION OF ANY NONPROFIT CORPORATION,  
16 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, OR FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION.

17 **25-9-104.3. Duties of the division - investigations.** THE DIVISION  
18 SHALL INVESTIGATE INSTANCES OF POSSIBLE MISCONDUCT BY WATER AND  
19 WASTEWATER FACILITY OPERATORS, REPORT THE RESULTS OF ANY  
20 INVESTIGATION TO THE BOARD, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS  
21 REGARDING APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION TO THE BOARD.

22 **25-9-104.4. Exemptions.** (1) THE BOARD MAY EXEMPT  
23 WASTEWATER FACILITIES OR CLASSES OF FACILITIES FROM THE  
24 REQUIREMENT TO OPERATE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A CERTIFIED  
25 OPERATOR IF THE EXEMPTION DOES NOT ENDANGER THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
26 OR THE ENVIRONMENT. IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO PROVIDE SUCH AN  
27 EXEMPTION, THE BOARD MAY CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 1 (a) DISCHARGES OF LIMITED DURATION;  
2 (b) THE SENSITIVITY OF THE RECEIVING WATERS;  
3 (c) THE LEVEL OF TOXIC POLLUTANTS IN THE DISCHARGE; AND  
4 (d) SITUATIONS WHERE CHEMICAL, MECHANICAL, OR BIOLOGICAL  
5 TREATMENT TECHNIQUES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO MEET PERMIT LIMITS,  
6 INCLUDING SEDIMENTATION PONDS AT MINING OPERATIONS FOR  
7 CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, AS DEFINED BY SECTION 34-32.5-103 (3),  
8 C.R.S.

9 (2) THE BOARD MAY EXEMPT WATER FACILITIES OR CLASSES OF  
10 FACILITIES FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO OPERATE UNDER THE SUPERVISION  
11 OF A CERTIFIED OPERATOR IF THE EXEMPTION DOES NOT ENDANGER PUBLIC  
12 HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT. IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO PROVIDE  
13 SUCH AN EXEMPTION, THE BOARD MAY CONSIDER:

14 (a) THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE FACILITY AS PUBLIC OR NONPUBLIC  
15 UNDER THE COLORADO PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATION;

16 (b) THE APPLICABILITY OF THE COLORADO PRIMARY DRINKING  
17 WATER REGULATION TO THE FACILITY OR CLASS OF FACILITIES; AND

18 (c) A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM HAVING A MINIMAL NUMBER OF  
19 CONNECTIONS.

20 **SECTION 6. Effective date.** This act takes effect July 1, 2013.

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