

NO FISCAL IMPACT**Drafting Number:** LLS 13-0727**Date:** February 18, 2013**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Crowder; Schwartz**Bill Status:** Senate Agriculture**Fiscal Analyst:** Kirk Mlinek (303-866-2756)

TITLE: CONCERNING REINTRODUCTION OF BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS WITHOUT FURTHER LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL WHERE A LANDOWNER CONSENTS PURSUANT TO A PROGRAMMATIC SAFE HARBOR AGREEMENT.

Summary of Legislation

The bill allows for the reintroduction of black-footed ferrets in Colorado without legislative approval if the reintroduction:

- occurs on private land with landowner consent; and
- is pursuant to a federal programmatic safe harbor agreement and enhancement-of-survival permit.

The permit provides immunity to landowners in cases of an "incidental take" (unintentional injury or death) that may result from implementation of conservation actions, specific land uses, and the return of the land to baseline conditions. The permit also limits the federal government's imposition of land, water, or resource-use restrictions or additional commitments of land, water, or finances to those contained in the original enhancement-of-survival permit.

The bill is effective on August 7, 2013, assuming that the General Assembly adjourns, as scheduled, on May 8, 2013, and no referendum petition is filed.

Assessment

The bill is not expected to affect the revenue or expenditures of any state agency, and, therefore, is assessed as having no fiscal impact. The reintroduction of black-footed ferrets as experimental populations is already authorized under the June 1995 Black-footed Ferret Cooperative Management Plan. The bill will not result in any significant demands on affected state agencies, which include the Department of Law, and the Division of Parks and Wildlife and the State Land Board in the Department of Natural Resources.

Departments Contacted

Natural Resources

Law

Judicial