

**STATE  
FISCAL IMPACT**

<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 14-0778	<b>Date:</b> February 11, 2014
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Sen. Roberts; Schwartz Rep. Fischer; Coram	<b>Bill Status:</b> Senate Agriculture <b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

**SHORT TITLE:** STATE WATER PLAN PUBLIC REVIEW & GA APPROVAL

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$59,155</u></b>	
Cash Funds	59,155	Possible increase.
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> \$59,155 - Department of Natural Resources (FY 2014-15)		

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill requires the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to hold at least one public hearing in each of the nine basin roundtables and give the public at least 90 days after the final public hearing on the draft state water plan, or plan amendment, to submit written comments. The CWCB will incorporate public comments and present the plan or plan amendment to the Water Resources Review Committee (WRRRC) of the General Assembly. The WRRRC will vote on whether to introduce legislation to approve the plan or plan amendment. If the General Assembly does not enact a bill approving the plan or plan amendment, the plan or plan amendment does not represent state water policy. The bill clarifies that a state water plan is only a policy, is not a rule, does not have the force or effect of law, and is not appealable to any judicial entity.

**Background**

On May 14, 2013, Governor Hickenlooper issued Executive Order D 2013-005 that directed the CWCB to commence work on the Colorado Water Plan and submit a draft for review by the Governor's Office by December 10, 2014. Under the order, the deadline for completion of the final plan is December 10, 2015.

**State Expenditures**

This bill is expected to increase cash expenditures for the CWCB by up to \$59,155 in FY 2014-15, with a possible increase in FY 2015-16 if meetings continue that year. The fiscal note assumes that each meeting with the nine basin roundtables will cost \$6,851 to provide for public meeting notices, meeting locations, travel, meals, and lodging.

CWCB will have an increase in workload to present the draft state water plan and incorporate public comments. This can be addressed as part of the workload of existing CWCB staff.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

**State Appropriations**

For FY 2014-15, the DNR requires an appropriation of \$59,155 from the CWCB Construction Fund.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Natural Resources