

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 14-0925.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

SENATE BILL 14-195

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Nicholson and Renfroe,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Singer and Sonnenberg, DelGrosso, Foote, Humphrey, Young

Senate Committees
Local Government

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING A STUDY OF PHREATOPHYTE GROWTH ALONG THE SOUTH
102 PLATTE RIVER IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SEPTEMBER 2013
103 FLOOD.

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>.)

The bill directs the Colorado water conservation board to evaluate the growth and identification of phreatophytes, which are deep-rooted plants that absorb water from the water table or the layer of soil just above the water table, along the South Platte river in the aftermath of the

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.

September 2013 flood. The objectives of the study are to determine the relationship between high groundwater and nonbeneficial consumptive use by the phreatophytes and to develop a cost analysis for the removal of unwanted phreatophytes.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-60-115, **add** (9)
3 as follows:

4 **37-60-115. Water studies - rules - repeal.** (9) (a) THE BOARD
5 SHALL CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY TO EVALUATE THE GROWTH
6 AND IDENTIFICATION OF PHREATOPHYTES ALONG THE SOUTH PLATTE
7 RIVER IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SEPTEMBER 2013 FLOOD. THE
8 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY ARE:

9 (I) TO EVALUATE A PORTION OF THE WATERSHED ALONG THE
10 SOUTH PLATTE RIVER THAT WAS AFFECTED BY THE SEPTEMBER 2013
11 FLOOD TO DETERMINE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIGH GROUNDWATER
12 AND NONBENEFICIAL CONSUMPTIVE USE BY PHREATOPHYTES; AND

13 (II) UTILIZING THE DATA COMPILED FOR SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF
14 THIS PARAGRAPH (a), TO DEVELOP A COST ANALYSIS FOR THE REMOVAL OF
15 UNWANTED PHREATOPHYTES ALONG THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER.

16 (b) THE BOARD MAY ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH COLORADO
17 STATE UNIVERSITY'S BIOAGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND PEST MANAGEMENT
18 PROGRAM TO CONDUCT, OVERSEE, AND COORDINATE ALL ASPECTS OF THE
19 STUDY AND SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
20 AND WEED MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS FROM AFFECTED LOCAL
21 GOVERNMENTS.

22 (c) THE BOARD SHALL COMMISSION THE STUDY AS SOON AS
23 PRACTICABLE. THE BOARD SHALL PREPARE A FINAL REPORT, INCLUDING

1 ITS CONCLUSIONS, AND PRESENT IT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NO LATER
2 THAN DECEMBER 31, 2016. THE BOARD SHALL PREPARE A PROGRESS
3 REPORT AND PRESENT IT TO A JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AND
5 NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
6 NATURAL RESOURCES, AND ENERGY, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES,
7 DURING THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTIETH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY IN 2016.

9 (d) THIS SUBSECTION (9) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017.

10 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
11 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
12 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.