

**STATE  
FISCAL IMPACT**

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<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 15-0434	<b>Date:</b> January 20, 2015
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Sen. Grantham Rep. Lundeen	<b>Bill Status:</b> Senate Agriculture
	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

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**BILL TOPIC:** EXEMPT WELL IRRIGATE UP TO 1 ACRE COMMERCIAL CROPS

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary*</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>	<b>FY 2016-2017</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	See State Expenditures section.	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		

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

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill exempts from the prior appropriation system water wells that do not exceed 15 gallons per minute of production; supply no more than three single-family dwellings; and irrigate no more than one acre of commercial crops.

**Background**

Most private domestic wells in Colorado are exempt from the prior appropriation system so are not required to have a substitute supply plan to replace water to the stream system in an over-appropriated basin. Under current law, these wells can be used for ordinary household purposes, fire protection, the watering of livestock, and the irrigation of up to one acre of home gardens and lawns. There are currently over 200,000 wells permitted, with 5,000 to 6,000 new permits issued annually by the Division of Water Resources (DWR) in the Department of Natural Resources.

**State Expenditures**

While this bill may result in a minimal increase in the number of well permits issued, the increase is not expected to be significant. In addition, allowing water to be drawn from exempt wells to irrigate up to one acre of crops is not expected to affect the workload of the DWR for water administration. The impact from this bill will not require additional appropriations.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 5, 2015, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2015, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Law                      Natural Resources