

**UPDATED SUMMARY  
HOUSE BILL 16-1256**

**Second Regular Session - Seventieth Colorado General Assembly**

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*This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house. It does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. This summary reflects only the main points of the legislation.*

**Section 1** of the bill requires the Colorado water conservation board (board), in collaboration with the ~~state engineer~~ *South Platte basin and metro roundtables*, to consider whether to award a grant under the water supply reserve fund to conduct or commission, in collaboration with the state engineer, a ~~hydrology~~ *storage* study of the South Platte river basin. The purpose of the storage study is to determine, for each of the previous 20 years, the amount of water that has been delivered to Nebraska from the river in excess of the amount required under the South Platte river compact. The study must also include a list of locations that have been identified as possible sites for the construction of a reservoir, enlargement of an existing reservoir, or implementation of an alternative storage mechanism along the mainstem and tributaries of the South Platte river between Greeley, Colorado, and Julesburg, Colorado. For each listed location, the study must include information on the amount of water that could have been stored in a reservoir at the site a list of any property that the federal bureau of reclamation or another government agency has purchased for construction of the site, based on measured flow existing at the time of the study, an a preliminary estimate of the cost to construct a reservoir at the site, and a cost-benefit analysis for constructing a reservoir at the site any such project. If a grant is awarded for the commission of the storage study, the board, in collaboration with the state engineer, is required to provide a report summarizing the study to the committees of reference in the house of representatives and the senate that have jurisdiction over natural resources matters.

**Section 2** transfers \$211,168 from the severance tax perpetual base fund to the Colorado water conservation board construction fund on July 1, 2016.

**Section 3** appropriates \$211,168 for the 2016-17 state fiscal year from the Colorado water conservation board construction fund to the department of natural resources for use by the board for implementation of the storage study.