

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 06-0136.01 Thomas Morris

**SENATE BILL 06-037**

---

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Isgar,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Curry,**

---

**Senate Committees**

Agriculture, Natural Resources & Energy

**House Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE ADJUDICATION OF RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL**  
102 **DIVERSIONS.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

**Water Resources Review Committee.** Modifies the requirements applicable to the adjudication of a recreational in-channel diversion ("RICD") by:

Deleting 2 of the required factors and the discretionary factor with regard to which the Colorado water conservation board was required to make findings of fact;  
Deleting the requirement that the board make a

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.*

recommendation regarding whether the application should be denied, granted, or granted with conditions;  
Changing the definitions of "recreational in-channel diversion" and "diversion" and adding definitions of "control structure" and "reasonable recreation experience".  
Limits the definition of "reasonable recreation experience" to kayaking;  
Requiring the water court to make specific findings regarding the application;  
Limiting the use of RICDs to specified hours from April 1 to Labor Day and specifying that a call will be administered only if it results in delivery of at least 90% of the decreed rate of flow for the applicable time period; and  
Requiring the water court to retain jurisdiction for at least 20 years to allow reconsideration of the decree.

Applies the act only to applications for and the administration of new RICDs filed on or after the effective date of the act.

---

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

2 **SECTION 1.** 37-92-102 (6) (a), (6) (b), and (6) (c), Colorado  
3 Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

4 **37-92-102. Legislative declaration - basic tenets of Colorado**  
5 **water law.** (6) (a) ~~Following a public hearing, if requested by any party,~~  
6 ~~the board shall make findings of fact and a final recommendation as to~~  
7 ~~whether the application should be granted, granted with conditions, or~~  
8 ~~denied.~~

9 (b) ~~In determining whether the board shall recommend that the~~  
10 ~~water court grant, grant with conditions, or deny such application,~~ The  
11 board, AFTER DELIBERATION IN A PUBLIC MEETING, shall consider the  
12 following factors and make written findings ~~thereon~~ AS TO EACH:

13 (I) Whether the adjudication and administration of the recreational  
14 in-channel diversion would MATERIALLY impair the ability of Colorado  
15 to fully develop and place to consumptive beneficial use its compact  
16 entitlements;

- 1 (II) ~~The appropriate reach of stream required for the intended use;~~  
2 (III) ~~Whether there is access for recreational in-channel use;~~  
3 (IV) Whether exercise of the recreational in-channel diversion  
4 would cause material injury to instream flow water rights appropriated  
5 pursuant to subsections (3) and (4) of this section; AND  
6 (V) Whether adjudication and administration of the recreational  
7 in-channel diversion would promote maximum utilization of waters of the  
8 state. ~~as referenced in paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section; and~~  
9 (VI) ~~Such other factors as may be determined appropriate for~~  
10 ~~evaluation of recreational in-channel diversions and set forth in rules~~  
11 ~~adopted by the board, after public notice and comment.~~

12 (c) Within ninety days after the filing of statements of opposition,  
13 the board shall report its findings to the water court for review pursuant  
14 to section 37-92-305 (13). The board may ~~defend such findings through~~  
15 ~~participation~~ FULLY PARTICIPATE in the water court proceedings.

16 **SECTION 2.** 37-92-103 (7) and (10.3), Colorado Revised  
17 Statutes, are amended, and the said 37-92-103 is further amended BY  
18 THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW SUBSECTIONS, to  
19 read:

20 **37-92-103. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context  
21 otherwise requires:

22 (6.3) "CONTROL STRUCTURE" MEANS A STRUCTURE CONSISTING OF  
23 DURABLE MAN-MADE OR NATURAL MATERIALS THAT HAS BEEN PLACED  
24 WITH THE INTENT TO DIVERT, CAPTURE, POSSESS, AND CONTROL WATER IN  
25 ITS NATURAL COURSE FOR AN APPROPRIATOR'S INTENDED AND SPECIFIED  
26 RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION. THE CONTROL STRUCTURE AND  
27 ITS EFFICIENCY SHALL BE APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-25-102.

1 C.R.S., BY, OR UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF, A PROFESSIONAL  
2 ENGINEER AND CONSTRUCTED SO THAT IT WILL OPERATE EFFICIENTLY AND  
3 WITHOUT WASTE TO PRODUCE THE INTENDED AND SPECIFIED REASONABLE  
4 RECREATION EXPERIENCE. CONCENTRATION OF RIVER FLOW BY A CONTROL  
5 STRUCTURE CONSTITUTES CONTROL OF WATER FOR A RECREATIONAL  
6 IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION.

7 (7) "Diversion" or "divert" means removing water from its natural  
8 course or location, or controlling water in its natural course or location,  
9 by means of a CONTROL STRUCTURE, ditch, canal, flume, reservoir,  
10 bypass, pipeline, conduit, well, pump, or other structure or device; except  
11 that, ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2001, only a county, municipality, city  
12 and county, water district, water and sanitation district, water  
13 conservation district, or water conservancy district may FILE AN  
14 APPLICATION TO control water in its natural course or location BY MEANS  
15 OF A CONTROL STRUCTURE for recreational in-channel diversions. ~~This~~  
16 ~~does not apply to applications filed prior to January 1, 2001.~~

17 (10.1) "REASONABLE RECREATION EXPERIENCE" MEANS THE USE  
18 OF A RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION FOR, AND LIMITED TO,  
19 KAYAKING. OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES MAY OCCUR BUT MAY NOT  
20 SERVE AS EVIDENCE OF A REASONABLE RECREATION EXPERIENCE.

21 (10.3) "Recreational in-channel diversion" means the minimum  
22 AMOUNT OF stream flow as it is diverted, captured, controlled, and placed  
23 to beneficial use between specific points defined by ~~physical~~ control  
24 structures pursuant to an application filed by a county, municipality, city  
25 and county, water district, water and sanitation district, water  
26 conservation district, or water conservancy district for a reasonable  
27 recreation experience in and on the water, BETWEEN ONE HALF HOUR

1 AFTER SUNRISE TO ONE HALF HOUR AFTER SUNSET FROM APRIL 1 TO  
2 LABOR DAY OF EACH YEAR UNLESS THE APPLICANT CAN DEMONSTRATE  
3 THAT THERE WILL BE DEMAND FOR THE REASONABLE RECREATION  
4 EXPERIENCE IN ADDITIONAL HOURS OR MONTHS. EACH CONTROL  
5 STRUCTURE FOR A RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION SHALL BE  
6 LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN THREE SPECIFIED FLOW RATES IN ANY TIME  
7 PERIOD. THERE SHALL BE A PRESUMPTION THAT THERE WILL NOT BE  
8 MATERIAL INJURY TO A RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION WATER  
9 RIGHT FROM SUBSEQUENT APPROPRIATIONS OR CHANGES OF WATER  
10 RIGHTS IF THE EFFECT ON THE RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION  
11 CAUSED BY SUCH APPROPRIATIONS OR CHANGES DOES NOT EXCEED  
12 ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT OF THE LOWEST DECREED RATE OF FLOW FOR  
13 THE RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION AS MEASURED AT THE  
14 RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION AND THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ON  
15 THE RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION CAUSED BY SUCH  
16 APPROPRIATIONS OR CHANGES DO NOT EXCEED TWO PERCENT OF THE  
17 LOWEST DECREED RATE OF FLOW FOR THE RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL  
18 DIVERSION MEASURED AT THE RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION.  
19 THE OWNER OF A WATER RIGHT FOR A RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL  
20 DIVERSION MAY NOT CALL FOR WATER THAT HAS BEEN LAWFULLY STORED  
21 BY ANOTHER APPROPRIATOR.

22 **SECTION 3.** 37-92-305 (13), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
23 amended to read:

24 **37-92-305. Standards with respect to rulings of the referee and**  
25 **decisions of the water judge.** (13) (a) The water court shall ~~apply the~~  
26 ~~factors set forth in section 37-92-102 (6).~~ All CONSIDER THE findings of  
27 fact ~~contained in the recommendation of~~ MADE BY the Colorado water

1 conservation board PURSUANT TO SECTION 37-92-102 (6) (b) REGARDING  
2 A RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION, WHICH FINDINGS shall be  
3 presumptive as to such facts, subject to rebuttal by any party. In  
4 ADDITION, THE WATER COURT SHALL CONSIDER EVIDENCE AND MAKE  
5 AFFIRMATIVE FINDINGS THAT THE RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION  
6 WILL:

7 (I) NOT MATERIALLY IMPAIR THE ABILITY OF COLORADO TO FULLY  
8 DEVELOP AND PLACE TO CONSUMPTIVE BENEFICIAL USE ITS COMPACT  
9 ENTITLEMENTS;

10 (II) PROMOTE MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF WATERS OF THE STATE;

11 (III) INCLUDE ONLY THAT REACH OF STREAM THAT IS APPROPRIATE  
12        FOR THE INTENDED USE;

13 (IV) BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE RECREATIONAL  
14 IN-CHANNEL USE PROPOSED; AND

15 (V) NOT CAUSE MATERIAL INJURY TO INSTREAM FLOW WATER  
16 RIGHTS APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 37-92-102 (3) AND (4).

17 (b) IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE INTENDED RECREATION  
18 EXPERIENCE IS REASONABLE AND THE CLAIMED AMOUNT IS THE  
19 APPROPRIATE FLOW FOR ANY PERIOD, THE WATER COURT SHALL CONSIDER  
20 ALL OF THE FACTORS THAT BEAR ON THE REASONABLENESS OF THE CLAIM,  
21 INCLUDING THE FLOW NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH THE CLAIMED  
22 RECREATIONAL USE, BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY, THE INTENT OF THE  
23 APPROPRIATOR, STREAM SIZE AND CHARACTERISTICS, AND TOTAL  
24 STREAMFLOW AVAILABLE AT THE CONTROL STRUCTURES DURING THE  
25 PERIOD OR ANY SUBPERIODS FOR WHICH THE APPLICATION IS MADE.

26 (c) IF A WATER COURT DETERMINES THAT A PROPOSED  
27 RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION WOULD MATERIALLY IMPAIR THE

1 ABILITY OF COLORADO TO FULLY DEVELOP AND PLACE TO CONSUMPTIVE  
2 BENEFICIAL USE ITS COMPACT ENTITLEMENTS, THE COURT SHALL DENY  
3 THE APPLICATION. THE DECREE SHALL SPECIFY THAT THE STATE ENGINEER  
4 SHALL NOT ADMINISTER A CALL FOR A RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL  
5 DIVERSION UNLESS AT LEAST NINETY PERCENT OF THE DECREED RATE OF  
6 FLOW FOR THE APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD WOULD BE PRODUCED BY THE  
7 CALL.

8 (d) THE WATER COURT SHALL RETAIN JURISDICTION OVER A  
9 RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION, DURING WHICH TIME IT MAY  
10 CONSIDER ABANDONMENT OF THE DECREE IN WHOLE OR IN PART AND THE  
11 FACTORS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (13) UPON  
12 MOTION OF ANY PARTY TO THE ORIGINAL PROCEEDING.

13 (e) THE DECREE SHALL REQUIRE THE OWNER OF A DECREED  
14 RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION TO REPORT MONTHLY USAGE OF  
15 THE RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION TO THE STATE ENGINEER,  
16 INCLUDING, AS A MINIMUM, THE PEAK FLOW USED, NUMBER OF KAYAKERS  
17 WHO USED THE RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION, AND DATES WHEN  
18 THE RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION WAS USED.

19 **SECTION 4. Applicability.** This act shall apply only to  
20 applications for and the administration of new recreational in-channel  
21 diversions filed on or after the effective date of this act.

22 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
23 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
24 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.