

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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**Drafting Number:** LLS 13-0643**Date:** July 17, 2013**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Vigil  
Sen. Schwartz**Bill Status:** Signed into Law**Fiscal Analyst:** Kirk Mlinek (303-866-2756)

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**TITLE:** CONCERNING AN EXPANSION IN THE ABILITY OF A DITCH TO OPERATE AS AN ACEQUIA DITCH.**Summary of Legislation**

Current law recognizes acequia ditch corporations, but limits the status to irrigation systems that supply irrigation water to long lots that are perpendicular to the stream or ditch to maximize the number of landowners who have access to the water. The bill repeals this limitation, allowing water from an acequia ditch to be used on lands with configurations other than long lots. The bill also allows an unincorporated association to operate as an acequia ditch. The definition of the term "nonprofit association" is clarified to include an acequia ditch association.

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on March 29, 2013, and takes effect August 7, 2013, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

**Assessment**

The technical adjustment to current statute made by the bill is not expected to affect the revenue or expenditures of any state agency or the Judicial Branch. The bill applies only to ditches that irrigate lands in a small number of counties. The state typically has little involvement with the operation of such existing corporations and unincorporated associations of the type allowed in the bill. As such, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

**Departments Contacted**Natural Resources  
Local Affairs  
StateJudicial  
Counties  
Special DistrictsLaw  
Municipalities