



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1115: WATER SUPPLY MEASUREMENT PROGRAM CREATION

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. McCluskie; Soper
Sen. Roberts; Catlin

Fiscal Analyst:

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Bill Outcome: Signed into Law

Drafting number: LLS 25-0424

Version: Final Fiscal Note

Date: June 5, 2025

Fiscal note status: The final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill expands the power and duties of the Colorado Water Conservation Board to include a water supply measurement and forecasting program.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$104,608 to the Department of Natural Resources.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact ¹	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$122,850	\$126,770
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.9 FTE	1.0 FTE

¹ Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the tables below.

Table 1A
State Expenditures

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Cash Funds	\$104,608	\$106,502
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$18,242	\$20,268
Total Expenditures	\$122,850	\$126,770
Total FTE	0.9 FTE	1.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill expands the powers and duties of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to include administering a water supply measurement program that can:

- collect and disseminate data on snowpack levels;
- investigate the latest technological advances in snowpack measurement and water supply forecasting; and
- collect other data to assist in snowpack measurement, water supply forecasting, or flood hazard mapping.

Background

The CWCB currently conducts water supply measurement and forecasting with a combination of federal grants, stakeholder funding, and state funds appropriated on an annual basis through the CWCB Projects Bill. State funding is based on annual program needs and available revenue to the CWCB Construction Fund. In the last five years, the CWCB has authorized an average of \$1.4 million annually in cash funds for these efforts.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the DNR by about \$123,000 in FY 2025-26, and by about \$127,000 in FY 2026-27, paid from the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Cash Fund. Costs are shown in Table 2 and described below.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Natural Resources

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Personal Services	\$75,926	\$84,362
Operating Expenses	\$1,152	\$1,280
Capital Outlay Costs	\$6,670	\$0
Travel	\$4,900	\$4,900
Information Technology - Data Storage	\$9,000	\$9,000
Information Technology – Data Dissemination	\$6,960	\$6,960
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$18,242	\$20,268
Total Costs	\$122,850	\$126,770
Total FTE	0.9 FTE	1.0 FTE

Staff and Travel

The CWCB will require 1.0 FTE Physical Science Researcher with specialty in snow and water measurement for administrative support and to oversee coordination of data collection and dissemination. Additional responsibilities include contract management, budgeting, stakeholder engagement, collection of data and dissemination of forecast data to water users statewide. Staff attendance at water basin roundtable meetings, training and other promotional engagement with stakeholders will create costs for statewide and regional travel. Personal service costs include standard operating and capital outlay, and have been prorated for a presumed August 1, 2025 start.

Information Technology

The department will have ongoing technology costs provided by the Governor’s Office of Information Technology (OIT). These costs include data storage in OIT servers, support services and data back up, and payments to configure data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) imagery, allowing water measurement data to be accessed and used by the public.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 15, 2025, and takes effect on August 6, 2025, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill includes an appropriation of \$104,608 to the Department of Natural Resources, and 0.9 FTE. Of this amount, \$15,960 is reappropriated to the Governor's Office of Information Technology.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources