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## Southwestern Water Conservation District

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### [HB23-1018](#)

### Timber Industry Incentives

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**Comment:****Position:****Calendar**

NOT ON CALENDAR

**Notification:****Short Title:**

Timber Industry Incentives

**Sponsors:**

M. Lynch (R) / C. Simpson (R)

**Summary:**

**Wildfire Matters Review Committee.** The bill creates the timber, forest health, and wildfire mitigation industries workforce development program (program) in the state forest service. The program provides partial reimbursement to timber businesses and forest health or wildfire mitigation entities for the costs of hiring interns. The forest service must adopt rules, policies, and procedures for the program, including criteria for an internship to qualify, best practices for recruiting and selecting interns to increase representation of historically underrepresented communities in the industries, the criteria to use in selecting qualified interns, the required educational experience for an intern, and administrative requirements for the program.

For income tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, but before January 1, 2028, a business involved in forestry, logging, the timber trade, the production of wood and secondary products, or forest health and wildfire mitigation activities in Colorado may claim a credit against state income tax for 20% of the cost incurred by the taxpayer in purchasing certain equipment, vehicles, and equipment infrastructure. The total aggregate credit in any one income tax year is limited to \$10,000. Any amount of the credit that exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability is not refundable but may be carried forward for up to 5 years.

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)*

**Status:**

2/23/2023 House Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations

**Fiscal Notes:**

[Fiscal Note](#)

**HB23-1125****Modernize Process To Obtain Water Well Information****Comment:****Position:****Calendar**

NOT ON CALENDAR

**Notification:****Short Title:**

Modernize Process To Obtain Water Well Information

**Sponsors:**

M. Lukens (D) | T. Winter (R) / C. Simpson (R) | J. Marchman

**Summary:**

Current law requires that the owner of a groundwater well (well) permit file any change in name or mailing address with the state engineer in person, by mail, or by fax. The bill removes the requirement that the filing be in person, by mail, or by fax.

Current law requires the buyers of certain wells to complete a change in owner name form before the closing of the transaction. The bill removes the requirement that the form be submitted before the closing of the transaction.

The bill clarifies that if an existing well being sold has not been registered with the division of water resources (division), the buyer of the well must submit a registration of existing well form to the division within 63 days after closing the transaction.

Current law states that the division is responsible for obtaining the necessary well registration information from the buyer after the purchase of a well. The bill removes this requirement and clarifies that a person who provides a closing service in connection with the purchase of a well must submit a change in owner name form for the well to the division, even if the well has not yet been registered with the division.

If a change in owner name form does not include a well permit number, the bill requires the division to instruct the buyer of a well to complete a new change in owner name form or registration of existing well form and requires the buyer to submit the applicable form to the division.

*(Note: This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house.)*

**Status:**

3/23/2023 Sent to the Governor

**Fiscal Notes:**[Fiscal Note](#)

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**HB23-1220**      **Study Republican River Groundwater Economic Impact**


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**Comment:****Position:****Calendar**                      NOT ON CALENDAR**Notification:****Short Title:**                      Study Republican River Groundwater Economic Impact**Sponsors:**                      R. Holtorf (R) | K. McCormick (D)

**Summary:**                      In 1942, Colorado entered into an interstate compact (compact) with Nebraska and Kansas regarding the allocation of water from the Republican river basin (basin). Colorado ratified the compact in 1943. In 2016, Colorado, Nebraska, and Kansas signed a resolution (resolution) regarding a dispute about Colorado's compliance with the compact, through which resolution and its amendment Colorado agreed to retire 25,000 acres of irrigated acreage in the basin by 2029.

The bill requires the Colorado water center (center) in the Colorado state university to study the anticipated economic effects of the forced elimination of groundwater withdrawals within and surrounding the Colorado portion of the Republican river basin that could occur if Colorado fails to comply with the resolution. The center is required to prepare a progress report and, on or before January 1, 2026, a final report of the center's findings and conclusions from the study and to post both reports on the center's website. The center must present the progress and final reports to certain legislative committees.

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)*

**Status:**                              3/20/2023 House Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Refer Unamended to Appropriations

**Fiscal Notes:**                      [Fiscal Note](#)

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**HB23-1221**      **Water Quality Data Standards**


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**Comment:****Position:****Calendar**                      NOT ON CALENDAR**Notification:****Short Title:**                      Water Quality Data Standards**Sponsors:**                      M. Soper (R) | T. Mauro (D) / C. Simpson (R)

**Summary:**                      The bill requires the division of administration in the department of public health and environment, on and after January 1, 2024, to use quality-assured data to determine the maximum amount of a pollutant

that can be discharged daily into state waters without exceeding applicable water quality standards.

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)*

**Status:** 3/23/2023 House Committee on Energy & Environment Refer Amended to Appropriations

**Fiscal Notes:** [Fiscal Note](#)

## **HB23-1259**

## **Open Meetings Law Executive Session Violations**

**Comment:**

**Position:**

**Calendar**

**Notification:**

Monday, April 10 2023

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

1:30 p.m. Room LSB-A

(1) in house calendar.

**Short Title:**

Open Meetings Law Executive Session Violations

**Sponsors:**

L. Daugherty (D) | G. Evans (R)

**Summary:**

The bill creates a right for a local public body to cure a violation of the open meetings law with respect to an executive session if the local public body takes the corrective action at its next meeting after the meeting at which the violation occurred or at the local public body's next meeting that is held at least 14 days after receiving notice by a person who intends to challenge the violation. The bill requires that, in order to have standing, a person who intends to challenge a violation of the open meetings law by a local public body in connection with an executive session must first provide notice to the secretary or clerk of the local public body and the parties must meet or communicate before the next meeting of the local public body to determine if the challenge can be resolved without filing with the court. If the local public body cures the violation, a person does not have standing to challenge the violation.

Under current law, if the court finds a violation of the open meetings law, a prevailing citizen is entitled to costs and reasonable attorney fees. If the court does not find a violation, the prevailing party may recover costs and reasonable attorney fees if the court finds that the action was frivolous, vexatious, or groundless. The bill creates an additional allowance in connection with a challenge filed that concerns an action by a local public body for an executive session to allow a local public body to recover costs and reasonable attorney fees if the court determines the person filing the challenge has not complied with the notice requirements or that the local public body has cured the violation.

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)*

**Status:** 3/26/2023 Introduced In House - Assigned to State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

**Fiscal Notes:**

**[SB23-005](#)**

**Forestry And Wildfire Mitigation Workforce**

**Comment:**

**Position:**

**Calendar**

NOT ON CALENDAR

**Notification:**

**Short Title:**

Forestry And Wildfire Mitigation Workforce

**Sponsors:**

S. Jaquez Lewis (D) | L. Cutter (D)

**Summary:**

**Wildfire Matters Review Committee. Section 1** of the bill directs the Colorado state forest service (state forest service) to consult with other entities to develop educational materials relating to career opportunities in forestry and wildfire mitigation for distribution to high school guidance counselors to provide to high school students. **Section 2** creates the timber, forest health, and wildfire mitigation industries workforce development program (development program) in the state forest service. The development program provides partial reimbursement to timber businesses and forest health or wildfire mitigation entities for the costs of hiring interns. **Section 3** requires the state treasurer, on June 30, 2023, and on June 30 each year thereafter, to transfer \$1 million from the general fund to the wildfire mitigation capacity development fund for allowable uses of the fund. **Sections 4, 5, and 6** authorize the expansion of existing forestry programs, including wildfire mitigation, and the creation of a new forestry program within the community college system and at Colorado mountain college (forestry programs). The bill provides for the acquisition of a harvesting simulator to train students, which may be shared among the forestry programs. The bill includes funding for the forestry programs within the community college system and at Colorado mountain college through limited purpose fee-for-service contracts and grants. **Section 7** directs the state board for community colleges and occupational education (board) to administer the recruitment of wildland fire prevention and mitigation educators program (recruiting program) to increase the number of qualified educators at community colleges, area technical colleges, and local district colleges that deliver a wildfire prevention and mitigation program or course. The bill appropriates \$250,000 from the general fund for the 2023-24 and for the 2024-25 state fiscal years for the recruiting program.

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)*

**Status:**

1/26/2023 Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources Refer Amended to Appropriations

Fiscal Notes: [Fiscal Note](#)

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**[SB23-032](#) Wildfire Detection Technology Pilot Program**

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**Comment:****Position:****Calendar** NOT ON CALENDAR**Notification:****Short Title:** Wildfire Detection Technology Pilot Program**Sponsors:** C. Simpson (R) | J. Ginal (D) / M. Lynch (R)

**Summary:** **Wildfire Matters Review Committee.** The bill requires the center of excellence for advanced technology aerial firefighting (center of excellence) in the division of fire prevention and control in the department of public safety to establish one or more remote camera technology pilot programs. The program may include the use of artificial intelligence technologies. The center of excellence must acquire or contract for a system of remote pan-tilt-zoom cameras and associated tools to provide a live feed of information that can detect, locate, and confirm ignition in the wildland-urban interface. The center of excellence may acquire or contract for artificial intelligence technologies to assist in the detection, containment, and monitoring of wildfires. The center of excellence must report to the wildfire matters review committee on the system's effectiveness and potential for more widespread use in the state. The bill appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to implement the program.

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)*

**Status:** 1/26/2023 Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources Refer Unamended to Appropriations**Fiscal Notes:** [Fiscal Note](#)

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**[SB23-057](#) County Treasurer No Longer Ex Officio District Treasurer**

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**Comment:****Position:** **Monitor****Calendar** NOT ON CALENDAR**Notification:****Short Title:** County Treasurer No Longer Ex Officio District Treasurer**Sponsors:** J. Rich (R) / R. Taggart (R)

**Summary:** Under current law, county treasurers are ex officio district treasurers for drainage districts, irrigation districts, and internal improvement districts that provide services related to drainage and ditches (collectively, district). The bill removes the duty of the county

treasurer to be ex officio district treasurer and provides that district treasurers are appointed by the board of directors of the district. The bill also clarifies that duties of the county treasurer as ex officio district treasurer are solely duties of the district treasurer. Additionally, the bill clarifies that irrigation district ~~taxes assessments~~ and internal improvement district ~~taxes assessments~~ are distributed in alignment with current law for the distribution of ~~taxes assessments~~ collected by county treasurers *and updates the amount of fees a county treasurer can charge and receive for collecting district assessments to 0.25% upon all money collected by the county treasurer for assessments beginning on and after January 1, 2026 .*

*(Note: Italicized words indicate new material added to the original summary; dashes through words indicate deletions from the original summary.)*

*(Note: This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house.)*

**Status:** 3/24/2023 Signed by the President of the Senate

**Fiscal Notes:** [Fiscal Note](#)

**[SB23-177](#)**

**2023 Colorado Water Conservation Board Water Projects Appropriations**

**Comment:**

**Position:** **Support**

**Calendar Notification:** NOT ON CALENDAR

**Short Title:** 2023 Colorado Water Conservation Board Water Projects Appropriations

**Sponsors:** D. Roberts (D) | C. Simpson (R)

**Summary:** The bill appropriates a total of \$90,430,000 from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Construction Fund in the Department of Natural Resources to the CWCB and the Division of Water Resources for specified water-related projects. On July 1, 2023, the bill transfers \$54.0 million from the Severance Tax Perpetual Base Fund to the CWCB Construction Fund, and \$6.0 million from the unreserved cash in the CWCB Construction Fund to various other cash funds. State Transfers In FY 2023-24, the bill transfers a total of \$54.0 million from the Severance Tax Perpetual Base Fund to the CWCB Construction Fund. In FY 2023-24, the bill makes the following additional transfers from the unreserved cash in the CWCB Construction Fund to the following continuously appropriated cash funds: • \$2.0 million to the

Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund; • up to \$2.0 million to restore the balance in the Litigation Fund for water compact compliance; and • \$2.0 million to the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund. State Expenditures For FY 2023-24, the bill appropriates \$90.43 million to the Department of Natural Resources for water-related projects. In addition to the transfers previously discussed, the appropriation includes approximately \$30.4 million for expenditures from the CWCB Construction Fund, Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund, and Wildlife Cash Fund. The funds are available for the designated purposes until fully expended.

**Status:** 3/23/2023 Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources Refer Amended to Appropriations

**Fiscal Notes:** [Fiscal Note](#)

**SB23-178**

**Water-wise Landscaping In Homeowners' Association Communities**

**Comment:**

**Position:**

**Calendar Notification:** NOT ON CALENDAR

**Short Title:** Water-wise Landscaping In Homeowners' Association Communities

**Sponsors:** S. Jaquez Lewis (D) | P. Will (R) / K. McCormick (D)

**Summary:** Under current law, a unit owners' association (association) of a common interest community may not prohibit the use of xeriscape, nonvegetative turf grass, or drought-tolerant vegetative landscapes to provide ground covering to property for which a unit owner is responsible. There is, however, an exception authorizing an association to adopt and enforce design or aesthetic guidelines or rules that apply to nonvegetative turf grass and drought-tolerant vegetative landscapes or to regulate the type, number, and placement of drought-tolerant plantings and hardscapes that may be installed on a unit owner's property, on a limited common element, or on other property for which the unit owner is responsible.

The bill states that an association's guidelines or rules must:

- Not prohibit the use of nonvegetative turf grass in the backyard of a unit owner's property;
- Not unreasonably require the use of hardscape on more than 20% of the landscaping area of a unit owner's property;
- Allow a unit owner an option that consists of at least 80% drought-tolerant plantings; and
- Not prohibit vegetable gardens in the front, back, or side yard of a unit owner's property.



The bill also requires an association to permit the installation of at least 3 garden designs that are preapproved by the association for installation in front yards within the common interest community. To be preapproved, a garden design must adhere to the principles of water-wise landscaping and emphasize drought-tolerant and native plants.

The bill allows a unit owner who is affected by an association's violation of the new requirements to bring a civil action to restrain further violation and to recover damages in an amount equal to actual damages plus \$500, plus any other damages, costs, and reasonable attorney fees.

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)*

**Status:** 3/28/2023 Senate Committee on Local Government & Housing Refer Amended to Senate Committee of the Whole

**Fiscal Notes:** [Fiscal Note](#)

**[SB23-237](#)**

**Transfer To Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund**

**Comment:**

**Position:**

**Calendar**

**Notification:**

Thursday, March 30 2023  
GENERAL ORDERS - SECOND READING OF BILLS - CONSENT CALENDAR  
(17) in senate calendar.

**Short Title:**

Transfer To Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund

**Sponsors:**

B. Kirkmeyer (R) | J. Bridges (D) / R. Bockenfeld (R) | S. Bird (D)

**Summary:**

**Joint Budget Committee.** The bill requires the state treasurer, on June 30, 2023, to transfer \$12.6 million from the severance tax operational fund to the water plan implementation cash fund.  
*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)*

**Status:**

3/28/2023 Senate Committee on Appropriations Refer Unamended - Consent Calendar to Senate Committee of the Whole

**Fiscal Notes:**

[Fiscal Note](#)