



SB20-025

SHORT TITLE: Conservancy District Boards Art and Beautification Projects

LONG TITLE: Concerning authorization of the board of directors of a conservancy district to participate in certain projects within the district, and, in connection therewith, authorizing such a board to consider such participation a current expense of the district.

SPONSORS: Sens. Garcia/Reps. Buentello and Esgar

COMMITTEES: Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To allow a conservancy district to participate in a beautification project that improves the aesthetic appearance of waterways within the district and consider it a current expense of the district.

PROponents OF THE BILL: Pueblo county commissioners.

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Other conservancy districts and their boards, taxpayers within the districts, economic development organizations.

BACKGROUND: Current law allows a conservancy district to participate in developing parks and recreation facilities within the district. In Pueblo, there has been an active effort over many years to develop the Arkansas Riverwalk in downtown to attract tourism and other business. A mural that decorated this feature is deteriorating and the district wishes to help restore it.

Is the bill necessary this year? No deadlines are apparent, although there may be a specific project being planned.

How does the bill change the law? The bill allows participation in development of parks and recreation facilities to be treated as a current expense of the district (as opposed to a capital expenditure?) and expands the scope of permissible participation to artistic and beautification projects that improve the aesthetic appearance of waterways within the district and also treat it as a current expense.

Does the bill affect prior appropriation? No.

How is the bill implemented? The conservancy district would conduct its usual process for approval of activities, presumably including public notice of consideration and adoption, and any mill levy adjustment necessary to cover the expense.

Practical consideration:

Fiscal impact: This should not add any expense to the state.