



HB19-1015

SHORT TITLE: Recreation of the Colorado Water Institute

LONG TITLE: Concerning the recreation of the Colorado Water Institute

SPONSORS: Rep. Arndt

COMMITTEES: House Rural Affairs & Agriculture Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To recreate in statute the Colorado Water Institute which was created in 1981 and automatically repealed in 2017.

PROPONENTS OF THE BILL: Colorado State University, Colorado Water Institute

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Individuals and organizations interested in water research and issues related to water planning, storage, conservation, climate, drought, quality and technologies for development and remediation.

BACKGROUND: The Colorado Water Institute was created by federal (the Federal Water Resources Research Act and amendments) and state legislation. CWI is accountable to Congress via its annual appropriation, a required annual report, and a thorough Congressionally mandated peer review conducted every five years under the auspices of the U.S. Geological Survey. Copies of CWI's Federal and State authorizing legislation are attached to the Annual Report PDF. CWI is operated, by law, as a state-wide water research institute, obligated to connect all water expertise in Colorado's higher education system with research and education needs of Colorado's water managers and users. Housed at Colorado State University, CWI collaborates with other state institutions of higher education. In 2018 the CWI merged with the CSU Water Center into a single organizational unit. It was inadvertently allowed to sunset in 2017.

Is this bill necessary this year? Yes

How does the bill change current law? Re-establishes in statute an entity which was allowed to sunset in 2017.

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No

How is the bill implemented?

Practical considerations: If the Institute is not recreated in statute, it cannot obtain state funding and proceed with its mission

Fiscal Impact: No estimate of cost has been provided to reestablish and operate the agency