



COLORADO
WATER CONGRESS
INFORM | CONVENE | TRAIN | ACT

HB21-1226

SHORT TITLE: More Robust Check Station Aquatic Nuisance Species

LONG TITLE: Concerning additional measures to control aquatic nuisance species, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting a person from refusing to stop at a check station and directing the division of parks and wildlife to report to the general assembly regarding implementation of the act

SPONSORS: Reps. Esgar and Will/Senators Coram and Donovan

COMMITTEES: House Agriculture, Livestock & Water Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To provide a more robust system of preventing vessels contaminated with aquatic nuisance species from entering Colorado waterways.

PROPONENTS OF THE BILL: Colorado Dept. of Parks and Wildlife (Dept. of Natural Resources)

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Boaters, anglers, water providers

BACKGROUND: Each year hundreds of boats are stopped and inspected for various aquatic nuisance species such as zebra mussels or quagga mussels before being allowed to enter Colorado waters. The efforts have been successful; however, as boaters enter Colorado from other states where waters are infested, it is necessary to be even more proactive to stop potential contamination through contact with these vessels.

Is this bill necessary this year? There is no deadline, but it is important prior to boating season.

How does the bill change current law? Existing law allows inspection of vessels and conveyances (trailers before they enter waterways controlled by CPW; however, it does not allow the impoundments of conveyances which may also be contaminated. The bill expands the authority of CPW to impound and quarantine conveyances. The bill prohibits a person transporting a conveyance from stopping at a check station for inspection during operational hours. The bill also directs CPW to investigate methods used by other states regarding check stations. As Amended, the bill makes it a Civil Infraction to knowingly or willfully violate the requirement to stop for the inspection and allows imposition of a one hundred dollar fine upon entry of judgement. If the fine and surcharge are not timely paid, the case may go to court to be prosecuted in the manner of traffic infractions.

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No

How is the bill implemented? By CPW officers

Practical considerations: Is there a fiscal impact; is additional funding required?

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact statement.