



COLORADO
WATER CONGRESS
INFORM | CONVENE | TRAIN | ACT

HB21-1268

SHORT TITLE: Study Emerging Technologies for Water Management

LONG TITLE: Concerning a requirement that Colorado institutions of higher education study potential uses of emerging technologies to more effectively manage Colorado's water supply, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation conditioned on the receipt of matching funds from gifts, grants, and donations

SPONSORS: Reps. Titone and Will

COMMITTEES: House Agriculture, Livestock & Water Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To encourage and provide for the study of new technologies for water management.

PROPOSERS OF THE BILL: Water planners, water providers

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Water planners, water providers, research universities in Colorado

BACKGROUND: In previous legislative sessions bills have been introduced but not enacted to study blockchain technology and other new methods of managing water resources. This is the most recent. It is possible that some federal infrastructure money may be attracted.

Is this bill necessary this year? There is no deadline.

How does the bill change current law? It does not change law; this can be studied without legislation, but funding must be identified.

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No, but the bill specifically requires that any studies or pilot projects or recommendations to promote the technologies must take account of the existing system of prior appropriation set forth in the Colorado constitution.

How is the bill implemented? CSU and the University of Colorado are authorized to conduct the various studies, and will each be funded by \$20,000 upon certifying, in writing, to the State Controller on or before June 1, 2022 that the institution has received at least \$40,000 in contributions from outside sources. The authorization for funding is repealed in 2023. The universities are required to report the progress of the studies in person and in writing on or before July 15, 2022 to the General Assembly and upon request of the Water Resources Review Committee any year thereafter.

Practical considerations: Previous consideration of these approaches have raised potential issues of water market incentives.

Fiscal Impact: \$40 million from the General Fund contingent on the universities raising \$40 million individually to receive the appropriation.

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