



HB21-1260

SHORT TITLE: General Fund Transfer Implement State Water Plan

LONG TITLE: Concerning transfers of money from the general fund to implement State Water Plan, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation

SPONSORS: Reps. Garnett and Catlin/Senators Donovan and Simpson

COMMITTEES: House Agriculture, Livestock & Water Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To allocate money from the General Fund to the CWCB, specifically to provide \$15 million for implementation of the State Water Plan and \$5 million for the Basin Roundtables

PROPOSERS OF THE BILL: Water advocates

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Agriculture, water providers

BACKGROUND: In past years money for water projects has been supplied by cash funds such as the Perpetual Base Fund (severance tax revenue, interest from loan interest and treasury interest), the CWCB construction fund (money from federal mineral lease allocation and interest), and the severance tax operational fund (severance tax revenue allocation after core programs and reserves are funded). Historically money has not been appropriated from the General Fund and, in fact, these cash funds have been raided numerous times to prop up the General Fund.

Is this bill necessary this year? There is no deadline, but money has been taken from funds that support water projects; this restores a portion of that money.

How does the bill change current law? It takes money from the General Fund instead of from cash funds supported by severance tax where revenues lag.

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No

How is the bill implemented? It requires an appropriation of funds by the legislature to transfer the money.

Practical considerations: This is a small portion of what is required to carry out the purpose.

Fiscal Impact: \$20 million from the General Fund.