



COLORADO  
WATER CONGRESS  
INFORM | CONVENE | TRAIN | ACT

## **SB21-234**

**SHORT TITLE:** General Fund Transfer Agriculture and Drought Resilience

**LONG TITLE:** Concerning creation of the agriculture and drought resiliency fund, and, in connection therewith, transferring money from the general fund to the fund and making an appropriation

**SPONSORS:** Senators Jacquez Lewis and Sonnenberg/Reps. Cutter and Holtorf

**COMMITTEES:** Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

**PURPOSE OF THE BILL:** To fund activities and programs to address drought and climate resiliency, assuming those to be within the Office of Drought and Climate Resilience in the Dept. of Agriculture created in HB 21-1242

**PROPONENTS OF THE BILL:** Individuals and organizations concerned with the effects of drought and climate and the need for planning to address those issues.

**POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS:** Agriculture, water planners and providers, forest management

**BACKGROUND:** HB 21-1242 creates the Office of Drought and Climate Resilience in the Dept. of Agriculture and funds it with a transfer of the balance from the Value-Added Agricultural Cash fund. SB 21-234 provides \$3 million from the General Fund for activities and programs for the Dept. of Ag to engage in activities that promote the ability of the state to anticipate, prepare for, mitigate, adapt to, or respond to any event, trend, or climatological disturbance related to drought or climate.

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

**How does the bill change current law?** No

**Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system?** No

**How is the bill implemented?** It establishes a fund in the Treasurer's office and directs the transfer of \$3 million from the General Fund. Specific examples of activities that may be undertaken include:

- Developing or facilitating a hay bank to provide farmers and ranchers with adequate resources for livestock in times of drought;
- Providing financial or technical assistance with transporting hay or livestock feed from areas outside of Colorado;
- Supporting recovery of grazing lands following wildfire devastation exacerbated by drought conditions; or
- Providing to producers, as defined by the federal Dept. of Agriculture, technical assistance to help prepare and plan for future or persistent drought conditions.

**Practical considerations:** Three million dollars may be inadequate, even if additional funds are appropriated in the future.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$3 million from the General Fund

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