



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB16-1313**

**FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 16-1023  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Arndt; Coram

**Date:** March 15, 2016  
**Bill Status:** House Agriculture  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Creighton (303-866-5834)

**BILL TOPIC:** AUTHORIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MASTER PLAN INCLUDE WATER PLAN GOALS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase.	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Minimal ongoing workload increase.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill authorizes local governments to include goals specified in the state water plan in their master plans and to include policies to implement water conservation and other state water plan goals as a condition of development approval.

**Background**

Master plans for local governments are advisory documents to guide land development decisions. Under this bill, state water plan goals and other water conservation policies can be included as a condition of approval for developments, including subdivisions, planned unit developments, special use permits, and zoning changes.

The state water plan sets a local land use goal that states, "by 2025, 75 percent of Coloradans will live in communities that have incorporated water-saving actions into land-use planning." It also calls for a partnership among water providers and local communities to achieve this goal.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), in the Department of Natural Resources, is the state's main water policy and planning agency. It is also the primary entity responsible for the development of the state water plan. Its major programs include water supply protection, flood protection, conservation and drought planning, stream and lake protection, and water supply planning and finance.

## State Expenditures

This bill minimally increases workload in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Local governments frequently review and update their master plans. Should any local government choose to update its master plan to include state water plan goals, DOLA staff time may be needed to provide training and technical assistance to planners on the water element of master plans. DNR staff time may be needed to provide information to local governments on the state water plan. This workload is expected to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

## Local Government Impact

Workload and costs will increase for any local government that chooses to update its master plan to include state water plan goals. This includes staff resources and possible consultant fees to review and update the master plan, posting public notices about the changes to the master plan, and staff time to prepare for and hold public meetings related to the changes in the master plan. Special district staff time could also be required to provide water use and supply data. Local governments already have the ability to include water supply elements in their master plans and master plans are reviewed and updated on a frequent basis. Therefore, any increase in costs or workload is expected to be minimal and at the discretion of local governments.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 10, 2016, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2016, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Information Technology	Local Affairs
Municipalities	Natural Resources	

## Research Note Available

An LCS Research Note for House Bill 16-1313 is available online and through the iLegislate app. Research notes provide additional policy and background information about the bill and summarize action taken by the General Assembly concerning the bill.