

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 19-0936.01 Thomas Morris x4218

**SENATE BILL 19-186**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Donovan and Coram,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Arndt,**

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**Senate Committees**

Agriculture & Natural Resources

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL**  
102 **MANAGEMENT PLANS TO PROTECT SURFACE WATER.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Under current law, the commissioner of agriculture is responsible for the management of the use of agricultural chemicals to protect groundwater, and the commissioner adopts rules establishing agricultural management plans for this purpose. The bill expands the scope of the commissioner's agricultural management plans to include the protection of state waters, which includes surface and subsurface waters.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-8-103, **amend**  
3 (1.1), (1.2), and (1.3) as follows:

4           **25-8-103. Definitions.** As used in this article 8, unless the context  
5 otherwise requires:

6           (1.1) "Agricultural management area" means a designated  
7 geographic area defined by the commissioner of agriculture that includes  
8 natural or man-made features where there is a significant risk of  
9 contamination or pollution of ~~groundwater~~ STATE WATERS from  
10 agricultural activities conducted at or near the land surface.

11           (1.2) "Agricultural management plan" means any activity,  
12 procedure, or practice adopted as a rule by the commissioner of  
13 agriculture pursuant to article 4 of title 24, ~~C.R.S.~~, in consultation with  
14 the Colorado cooperative extension service ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO  
15 PART 7 OF ARTICLE 31 OF TITLE 23 and the water quality control division,  
16 to prevent or remedy the introduction of agricultural chemicals into  
17 ~~groundwater~~ STATE WATERS to the extent technically and economically  
18 practical.

19           (1.3) "Best management practices" means any voluntary activity,  
20 procedure, or practice established by the department of agriculture, in  
21 consultation with the Colorado cooperative extension service  
22 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO PART 7 OF ARTICLE 31 OF TITLE 23 and the  
23 water quality control division, to prevent or remedy the introduction of  
24 agricultural chemicals into ~~groundwater~~ STATE WATERS to the extent  
25 technically and economically practical.

26           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-8-205.5, **amend**

1 (1), (3)(d), (3)(g), and (5); and **repeal** (2) as follows:

2 **25-8-205.5. Pollution from agricultural chemicals - rules.**

3 (1) **Legislative declaration.** The general assembly hereby declares that  
4 the public policy of this state is to protect ~~groundwater~~ STATE WATERS  
5 and the environment from impairment or degradation due to the improper  
6 use of agricultural chemicals while allowing for their proper and correct  
7 use, in particular, to provide for the management of agricultural chemicals  
8 to prevent, minimize, and mitigate their presence in ~~groundwater~~ STATE  
9 WATERS and to provide for the education and training of agricultural  
10 chemical applicators and the general public regarding ~~groundwater~~  
11 ~~protection~~ THE PROTECTION OF STATE WATERS, agricultural chemical use,  
12 and the use of other agricultural methods.

13 (2) **Definition.** ~~For the purpose of this section only,~~  
14 ~~"groundwater" means any subsurface water in a zone of saturation which~~  
15 ~~is or can be brought to the surface of the ground or to surface waters~~  
16 ~~through wells, springs, seeps, or other discharge areas.~~

17 (3) **Powers and duties of the commissioner of agriculture.**

18 (d) If the commissioner determines that the use of best management  
19 practices is ineffective or insufficient to prevent or mitigate the pollution  
20 of ~~groundwater~~ STATE WATERS, the commissioner may require, by rule  
21 ~~and regulation~~ adopted pursuant to article 4 of title 24, ~~C.R.S.~~, the use of  
22 agricultural management plans.

23 (g) The commissioner shall perform the monitoring specified in  
24 subsection (5) of this section. The commissioner shall enter into an  
25 agreement with the department of public health and environment to assist  
26 in the identification of agricultural management areas and to perform  
27 analysis, interpretation, and reporting of ~~groundwater~~ STATE WATERS

1 monitoring data supplied by the commissioner.

2 (5) **Monitoring.** Pursuant to the commissioner's duties as set forth  
3 in any contract authorized in ~~paragraph (g) of subsection (3)~~ SUBSECTION  
4 (3)(g) of this section, the commissioner shall identify agricultural  
5 management areas ~~as defined in section 25-8-103 (1.1)~~ and shall conduct  
6 monitoring programs to determine:

7 (a) The presence of any agricultural chemical in ~~groundwater~~  
8 STATE WATERS at a level ~~which~~ THAT meets or exceeds any water quality  
9 standard applicable under this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 8 or ~~which~~ THAT has a  
10 reasonable likelihood of meeting or exceeding any such standard; or

11 (b) The likelihood that an agricultural chemical will enter the  
12 ~~groundwater~~ STATE WATERS, based upon the existence of sufficient, valid  
13 scientific data ~~which~~ THAT reasonably predict the behavior of a particular  
14 agricultural chemical in the soil.

15 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-1-106.3, **amend**  
16 (3) as follows:

17 **35-1-106.3. Plant health, pest control, and environmental**  
18 **protection cash fund - creation.** (3) The plant health, pest control, and  
19 environmental protection cash fund ~~shall consist~~ CONSISTS of any fees,  
20 fines, or penalties collected pursuant to articles 4, 9, 10, 11, 11.5, 25, 26,  
21 27, and 27.5 of this ~~title~~ TITLE 35; any fees, fines, or penalties collected  
22 pursuant to article 8 of title 25; ~~C.R.S.~~; any fees collected under article 12  
23 of this ~~title~~ TITLE 35 for the purpose of funding ~~groundwater~~ STATE  
24 WATERS protection activities; and all revenues collected in pursuit of the  
25 department's efforts to conduct biological pest control. The ~~moneys~~  
26 MONEY in the fund ~~shall be~~ IS subject to annual appropriation by the  
27 general assembly for the direct and indirect costs of implementing,

1 administering, and enforcing ~~the provisions of~~ articles 4, 9, 10, 11, 11.5,  
2 25, 26, 27, and 27.5 of this ~~title~~ TITLE 35 and of article 8 of title 25;  
3 ~~C.R.S.~~, except that any appropriation for the indirect costs of issuing  
4 chemigation permits pursuant to section 35-11-106 ~~shall~~ MUST not exceed  
5 the amount specified in section 35-11-106 (3)(b). Any ~~moneys~~ MONEY  
6 from the fund that ~~are~~ IS allocated for biological pest control ~~shall~~ MUST  
7 supplement any general fund ~~moneys~~ MONEY appropriated for that  
8 purpose.

9 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-9-118, **amend**  
10 (3)(a) as follows:

11 **35-9-118. Powers and duties of the commissioner - rules.**

12 (3) (a) The commissioner shall promulgate rules, pursuant to article 4 of  
13 title 24, ~~C.R.S.~~, to determine the annual registration fee for each pesticide  
14 registered. For the purpose of funding the department of agriculture's  
15 ~~groundwater~~ STATE WATERS protection efforts, ~~any such~~ THE fee ~~shall~~  
16 MUST include an increment as approved by the agricultural commission,  
17 which increment, along with the remainder of the fee, shall be collected  
18 by the commissioner and transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall  
19 credit the same to the plant health, pest control, and environmental  
20 protection cash fund created in section 35-1-106.3.

21 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-12-106, **amend**  
22 (1) as follows:

23 **35-12-106. Distribution fees.** (1) All registrants, except those  
24 who package only in containers of ten pounds or less, shall pay the  
25 commissioner a distribution fee as established by the commission for all  
26 commercial fertilizers, soil conditioners, or plant amendments distributed  
27 in this state. For the purpose of funding the department's ~~groundwater~~

1 STATE WATERS protection efforts, an additional fee per ton of commercial  
2 fertilizer shall be paid to the commissioner as established by the  
3 commission. This increment per ton of commercial fertilizer shall be  
4 collected by the commissioner and transmitted to the state treasurer, who  
5 shall credit the same to the plant health, pest control, and environmental  
6 protection cash fund created in section 35-1-106.3.

7 **SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date -**  
8 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following  
9 the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the  
10 general assembly (August 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3,  
11 2019); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1  
12 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section,  
13 or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part  
14 will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election  
15 to be held in November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the  
16 date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

17 (2) This act applies to conduct occurring on or after the applicable  
18 effective date of this act.