



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 20-1172

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0299
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Arndt

Date: February 27, 2020
Bill Status: House Rural Affairs
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Bill Topic: **NO ABANDONMENT OF WATER RIGHTS FOR EFFICIENCIES**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill establishes that a reduction in water usage due to an efficiency project does not constitute abandonment of a water right. It increases state workload on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Current law recognizes certain activities that can result in a reduction in water use without constituting abandonment of a water right. The bill adds the implementation of an efficiency improvement project to this list. When determining abandonment, any nonuse resulting from such a project is not counted for a period of up to 20 years. Written notice must be submitted to the Division of Water Resources in the Department of Natural Resources within one year of the project being implemented.

State Expenditures

The bill increases workload for the Division of Water Resources to develop a form and review any submitted forms. This minimal workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture

Judicial

Natural Resources