

CHAPTER 18

WATER AND IRRIGATION

SENATE BILL 20-048

BY SENATOR(S) Donovan and Coram, Bridges, Crowder, Fields, Gonzales, Hill, Hisey, Lee, Moreno, Tate;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Roberts and Catlin, Arndt, Titone, Bird, Bockenfeld, Buentello, Caraveo, Cutter, Duran, Esgar,
Exum, Garnett, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Jaquez Lewis, Kipp, McCluskie, McLachlan, Melton, Pelton, Saine, Snyder, Soper,
Valdez D., Will, Wilson, Woodrow, Young, Becker.

AN ACT

**CONCERNING A STUDY TO CONSIDER THE STRENGTHENING OF THE PROHIBITION ON SPECULATIVE
APPROPRIATIONS OF WATER.**

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-98-103, **add** (8) as follows:

37-98-103. Annual recommendations - bill limitation - deadlines for introduction - repeal. (8) (a) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL CONVENE A WORK GROUP DURING THE 2020 INTERIM TO EXPLORE WAYS TO STRENGTHEN CURRENT WATER ANTI-SPECULATION LAW. THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE WORK GROUP.

(b) THE WORK GROUP CONSISTS OF CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT FROM THE STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE AND THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ONE OR MORE CURRENT EMPLOYEES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE APPOINTED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, ONE OR MORE CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, AND SUCH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DETERMINES WOULD BE HELPFUL TO PROMOTE THE WORK GROUP PROCESS OR WORK PRODUCT.

(c) THE WORK GROUP SHALL SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE BY AUGUST 15, 2021, REGARDING ANY RECOMMENDED CHANGES.

(d) THIS SUBSECTION (8) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: March 11, 2020