

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0994.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

SENATE BILL 23-267

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING A WATER QUALITY FEE TO BE PAID FOR ADMISSION TO  
102 CHATFIELD STATE PARK, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,  
103 REQUIRING THE DIVISION OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE TO COLLECT  
104 THE FEE AND TRANSFER THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE TO THE  
105 CHATFIELD WATERSHED AUTHORITY.

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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>.)*

The bill requires the division of parks and wildlife (division) to require each visitor to Chatfield state park to pay, in addition to any other

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

fee that the division charges for admission to the park, a water quality fee in the following amount:

- For a person who pays the daily fee to enter the park, the amount of the water quality fee is \$1, to be paid for each visit; and
- For a person who uses an annual parks pass or a keep Colorado wild pass to enter the park, the amount of the water quality fee is \$3, to be paid once annually.

Beginning April 1, 2024, and every 3 months thereafter, the division shall pay the total amount of money collected during the preceding 3 months as water quality fees to the Chatfield watershed authority (authority); except that the division may retain up to 3% of the money to pay the division's administrative expenses. The authority is required to expend the money to provide for a regional, coordinated approach to phosphorous and other nonpoint source pollution control in the Chatfield watershed, including providing for the construction, operation, and maintenance of nonpoint source projects, water quality monitoring, and urban runoff and erosion management and control.

The water quality fee and associated requirements are repealed, effective January 1, 2029.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds that:

4 (a) Chatfield state park is situated in the lower foothills of the  
5 front range on the southwestern edge of Denver, and Chatfield reservoir,  
6 located in Chatfield state park, is a 1,400 surface acre water body at the  
7 confluence of Plum creek and the South Platte river;

8 (b) Chatfield reservoir was constructed in 1970 for the purpose of  
9 providing regional flood control for the Denver metropolitan area and is  
10 a regional water supply source for multiple local and regional water  
11 producers;

12 (c) Chatfield state park is one of the most popular recreation areas  
13 in the Denver metropolitan region and in all of Colorado and offers  
14 numerous recreational activities, including swimming, boating,

1 paddleboarding, fishing, wildlife viewing, biking, camping, and  
2 horseback riding;

3 (d) The Chatfield watershed authority (authority) was established  
4 in 1984 when the governor designated the authority as a 208 management  
5 agency, in accordance with section 208 of the "Federal Water Pollution  
6 Control Act", also known as the federal "Clean Water Act", 33 U.S.C.  
7 sec. 1251 et seq.;

8 (e) The authority includes Jefferson county, Douglas county, the  
9 town of Castle Rock, the city of Littleton, the town of Larkspur, and  
10 water and wastewater providers in the Chatfield watershed;

11 (f) The authority's mission is to promote protection of water  
12 quality in the Chatfield watershed for drinking water supplies, recreation,  
13 fisheries, and other beneficial uses;

14 (g) The authority preserves these beneficial uses in Chatfield  
15 reservoir and in the watershed through the promotion of point source,  
16 nonpoint source, and storm water controls;

17 (h) Under regulation 73 of the water quality control commission,  
18 the authority is required to limit the total maximum annual load of total  
19 phosphorus entering the Chatfield reservoir;

20 (i) The authority continues to implement regulation 73 and  
21 coordinate with state and federal agencies regarding water quality control  
22 measures;

23 (j) The authority is also required to maintain compliance with  
24 chlorophyll-a and phosphorous standards imposed by regulation 38 of the  
25 water quality control commission;

26 (k) Since 1984, the authority and its members have monitored  
27 water quality in the Chatfield reservoir and upstream in the Chatfield

1 watershed and have undertaken measures to protect water quality in the  
2 watershed through voluntary funding contributions and grants;

3 (l) The Chatfield watershed plan identifies opportunities within  
4 the watershed to address the chemical, physical, and biological pollutants  
5 that impact the watershed, including controlling runoff from wildfire burn  
6 areas, reducing phosphorus quantities by stabilizing degraded  
7 streambanks, mitigating runoff from agricultural lands, minimizing  
8 leachate from septic systems, and providing public education for reducing  
9 contamination from the actions of people;

10 (m) The effects of increased floods and wildfires threaten to  
11 increase pollutant loadings to Chatfield reservoir; and

12 (n) The authority is unable to qualify for grant programs, which  
13 typically require a certain level of matching funds.

14 (2) The general assembly declares that it is in the best interests of  
15 the state to:

16 (a) Create a water quality fee to be imposed with the entrance fee  
17 that visitors pay to visit Chatfield state park;

18 (b) Require the division of parks and wildlife to collect the water  
19 quality fee and pay the amounts collected as water quality fees to the  
20 authority; and

21 (c) Require the authority to expend the money to provide for a  
22 regional, coordinated approach to phosphorous and other nonpoint source  
23 pollution control in the Chatfield watershed, including providing for the  
24 construction, operation, and maintenance of nonpoint source projects,  
25 water quality monitoring, and urban runoff and erosion management and  
26 control.

27 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 33-9-114 as

1 follows:

2 **33-9-114. Chatfield state park - water quality fee - Chatfield**  
3 **watershed authority - definition - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION,  
4 "CHATFIELD WATERSHED AUTHORITY", OR "AUTHORITY", MEANS THE  
5 CHATFIELD WATERSHED AUTHORITY ESTABLISHED BY AN  
6 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT EXECUTED PURSUANT TO SECTIONS  
7 29-1-203 AND 29-1-204.2 AND INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

- 8 (a) JEFFERSON COUNTY;
- 9 (b) DOUGLAS COUNTY;
- 10 (c) THE CITY OF LITTLETON;
- 11 (d) THE TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK;
- 12 (e) THE TOWN OF LARKSPUR;
- 13 (f) CASTLE PINES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT;
- 14 (g) CENTENNIAL WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT;
- 15 (h) DOMINION WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT;
- 16 (i) LOUVIERS WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT;
- 17 (j) PERRY PARK WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT;
- 18 (k) ROXBOROUGH WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT;
- 19 (l) THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, ACTING BY AND THROUGH  
20 ITS BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS; AND
- 21 (m) THE PLUM CREEK WATER RECLAMATION AUTHORITY.

22 (2) ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER  
23 FEE THAT THE DIVISION MAY CHARGE VISITORS FOR ADMISSION TO  
24 CHATFIELD STATE PARK, THE DIVISION SHALL REQUIRE EACH VISITOR TO  
25 PAY A WATER QUALITY FEE IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNT:

- 26 (a) FOR A PERSON WHO PAYS THE DAILY FEE TO ENTER THE PARK,  
27 THE AMOUNT OF THE WATER QUALITY FEE IS ONE DOLLAR, TO BE PAID FOR

1 EACH VISIT; AND

2 (b) FOR A PERSON WHO USES AN ANNUAL PARKS PASS OR A KEEP  
3 COLORADO WILD PASS, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 33-12-108, TO ENTER  
4 THE PARK, THE AMOUNT OF THE WATER QUALITY FEE IS THREE DOLLARS,  
5 TO BE PAID ONCE ANNUALLY.

6 (3) BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2024, AND EVERY THREE MONTHS  
7 THEREAFTER, THE DIVISION SHALL PAY THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY  
8 COLLECTED DURING THE PRECEDING THREE MONTHS AS WATER QUALITY  
9 FEES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION TO THE CHATFIELD  
10 WATERSHED AUTHORITY; EXCEPT THAT THE DIVISION MAY RETAIN UP TO  
11 THREE PERCENT OF THE MONEY TO PAY THE DIVISION'S ADMINISTRATIVE  
12 EXPENSES.

13 (4) THE AUTHORITY SHALL EXPEND THE MONEY RECEIVED  
14 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION TO PROVIDE FOR A  
15 REGIONAL, COORDINATED APPROACH TO PHOSPHOROUS AND OTHER  
16 NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL IN THE CHATFIELD WATERSHED,  
17 INCLUDING PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND  
18 MAINTENANCE OF NONPOINT SOURCE PROJECTS, WATER QUALITY  
19 MONITORING, AND URBAN RUNOFF AND EROSION MANAGEMENT AND  
20 CONTROL.

21 (5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2029.

22 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
23 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
24 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
25 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
26 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
27 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take

1 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
2 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
3 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.