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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 21-0921 **Date:** April 15, 2021
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Titone; Will **Bill Status:** House Agriculture
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Bill Topic: **STUDY EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR WATER MANAGEMENT**

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:**
- State Revenue
 - State Expenditure *(conditional)*
 - State Transfer
 - TABOR Refund
 - Local Government
 - Statutory Public Entity

The bill directs the University of Colorado and Colorado State University to conduct feasibility studies and pilot deployments of new technologies for water management, conditional upon their ability to obtain donations to do so. The bill may increase revenue and conditionally increases state expenditures in FY 2021-22 only.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2021-22, the bill appropriates \$40,000 to the Department of Higher Education, conditional upon the designated universities meeting a donation threshold.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 21-1268

		Budget Year FY 2021-22	Out Year FY 2022-23
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$40,000	-
Transfers		-	-
TABOR Refund		-	-

Summary of Legislation

The bill directs the University of Colorado, in collaboration with Colorado State University and the Colorado Water Institute, to conduct feasibility studies and pilot deployments of new and emerging technologies that have the potential to improve water management, contingent upon receiving donations to finance the work. The technologies to be investigated may include the following:

- in-situ sensors to monitor water use;
- sensors to monitor water quality;
- cellular and satellite telemetry systems allowing remote access to sensor data;
- aerial observation platforms, including high-altitude balloons and unmanned vehicles;
- satellite-based remote sensing and water resource forecasting technologies; and
- blockchain-based documentation; communication, and authentication of data regarding water use, trading, and conservation.

The universities must report on progress, conclusions, and recommendations to the Water Resources Review Committee by July 15, 2022, and upon the request of the committee thereafter.

The Universities are authorized to accept donations to conduct the studies, and shall not conduct the studies unless they have received at least \$40,000 for this purpose by June 1, 2022. Conditional upon the universities collectively raising at least that amount in donations, \$40,000 General Fund is appropriated to the universities for FY 2021-22, split evenly between the two universities.

State Revenue

For FY 2021-22, the bill may increase donation revenue to the universities. Donation revenue is not subject to TABOR.

State Expenditures

For FY 2021-22 only, the bill increases state General Fund expenditures for the University of Colorado and Colorado State University collectively by \$40,000, in addition to any donations being spent, conditional upon the universities raising at least \$40,000 and triggering the General Fund appropriation. University researchers will determine the scope of studies that can be accomplished based on the funding secured.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2021-22, the bill conditionally appropriates \$40,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Higher Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education