

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING MEASURES TO ADDRESS ORPHANED WELLS IN COLORADO, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING THE ORPHANED WELLS MITIGATION ENTERPRISE.

Prime Sponsors: Sens. Fenberg and Scott
Reps. Weissman and Will

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Appropriation Items of Note

Appropriation Not Required, No Amendment in Packet

New Cash Fund (with Continuous Appropriation)

Fiscal Impact of Bill as Amended to Date

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/15/22.

XXX	No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill
	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>new information or technical issues</i>
	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>amendment adopted</i> after LCS Fiscal Note was prepared
	Non-Concurrence: JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff disagree about the fiscal impact of the bill

Amendments in This Packet for Consideration by Appropriations Committee

Amendment	Description
None.	

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill neither requires nor contains an appropriation clause for FY 2022-23.

Points to Consider

Legislative Appropriation Authority

Continuous spending authority, also known as **continuous appropriations**, allows departments to spend money for statutorily specified purposes up to the amount of money in the fund without seeking annual legislative approval. An annual appropriation provides a limit on spending authority,

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while a continuous appropriation provides unlimited spending authority.

This method of funding moves these expenditures off-budget, and thus expenditures are not reported or accounted for through the budget process. Is it necessary for the Department of Natural Resources to **not** seek annual authority from the General Assembly to spend money from the Orphaned Wells Mitigation Enterprise Cash Fund?