

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 14-0247.01 Jennifer Berman

SENATE BILL 14-026

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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Senate Committees

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

House Committees

Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF CERTAIN STATUTORY PRINTING  
102 REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE DIVISION  
103 OF WATER RESOURCES.

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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

**Water Resources Review Committee.** The state engineer and the division engineers throughout the state are required to make a number of reports, tabulations, and other written materials available to the public by printing them out and mailing them to interested parties. With electronic

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
February 3, 2014

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
January 24, 2014

SENATE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
January 23, 2014

mail and the internet, these written materials can be disseminated without printing copies. The bill updates statutes to remove printing requirements for the following written materials:

- ! The state engineer's annual report to the general assembly, as reflected in **section 1**;
- ! Division engineers' tabulations of decreed and conditional water rights, as reflected in **section 2**; and
- ! Decisions concerning substitute water supply plans, as reflected in **section 3** of the bill.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 37-87-114.4  
3 as follows:

4 **37-87-114.4. Annual report.** The state engineer shall submit an  
5 annual report to the general assembly by November 1 of each year  
6 concerning the activities of the state engineer and the division of water  
7 resources relating to sections 37-87-105 to 37-87-114 for the preceding  
8 fiscal year. ~~In addition to the copies required to be filed as provided in~~  
9 ~~section 24-1-136 (9), C.R.S., a copy of such report shall be provided to~~  
10 ~~each of the following: The governor and the chairmen of the committees~~  
11 ~~of reference of the senate and the house of representatives dealing with~~  
12 ~~agriculture and natural resources. Such~~ THE report shall ~~include but~~  
13 ~~not be limited to~~ information on the following: Approvals of plans and  
14 specifications for construction of dams and reservoirs and for alterations,  
15 modifications, repairs, and enlargements; number of safety inspections  
16 made and the results thereof; use of appropriated funds; receipts  
17 generated for inspections of dams and reservoirs; rules and regulations  
18 adopted or amended; enforcement orders and proceedings; dam failures  
19 and reasons therefor; and other available data regarding the effectiveness  
20 of the state's dam and reservoir safety program.

1           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-92-401, **amend**  
2 (1) (a), (1) (a.5), (2) (a), (3), and (4) (c) as follows:

3           **37-92-401. Tabulations of priorities and decennial**  
4 **abandonment lists.** (1) (a) ~~No later than July 1, 1988, and each fourth~~  
5 ~~anniversary thereafter,~~ The division engineer of each division with the  
6 approval of the state engineer shall ~~prepare~~ MAINTAIN a quadrennial  
7 tabulation in order of seniority of all decreed water rights and conditional  
8 water rights in his OR HER division. ~~except that a tabulation shall be~~  
9 ~~prepared no later than July 1, 1994, and July 1 of every second year~~  
10 ~~thereafter. Such biennial~~ THE tabulations shall MUST describe each water  
11 right and conditional water right by some appropriate means and shall  
12 MUST set forth the priority and amount thereof as established by court  
13 decrees. In making ~~such biennial~~ THE tabulations, the division engineer  
14 may use such system of numbering and listing water rights and  
15 conditional water rights in order of seniority as is suited to the  
16 administrative needs of the particular division or portion thereof. ~~He shall~~  
17 ~~prepare separate priority lists so that only those water rights and~~  
18 ~~conditional water rights which take or will take water from the same~~  
19 ~~source and are in a position to affect one another will be on the same~~  
20 ~~priority list.~~ He OR SHE shall also prepare decennially, no later than July  
21 1, 1990, and each tenth anniversary thereafter, a separate abandonment  
22 list comprising all absolute water rights ~~which~~ THAT he OR SHE has  
23 determined to have been abandoned in whole or in part and ~~which~~ THAT  
24 previously have not been adjudged to have been abandoned.

25           (a.5) ~~The biennial~~ IN PREPARING THE tabulations required by this  
26 section, ~~shall reflect~~ THE DIVISION ENGINEER SHALL INCLUDE judgments  
27 and decrees determining, changing, or otherwise affecting water rights

1 and conditional water rights, which judgments and decrees have been  
2 entered ~~subsequent to those reflected in the immediately preceding~~  
3 ~~tabulation authorized, as the case may be, by this section or by section~~  
4 ~~37-92-402~~ MORE THAN SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE DATE OF REVIEW. The  
5 ~~biennial~~ DIVISION ENGINEER MUST ALSO INCLUDE IN THE tabulations, ~~shall~~  
6 ~~also reflect,~~ as appropriate, any changes in earlier abandonment lists as  
7 ~~have been ordered by~~ THAT the water judge or ~~by~~ the supreme court  
8 ~~Except as specified in this paragraph (a.5), the biennial tabulations shall~~  
9 ~~make no changes in the listings from those reflected in the respective~~  
10 ~~immediately preceding tabulation authorized, as the case may be, by this~~  
11 ~~section or by section 37-92-402, other than changes to correct clerical~~  
12 ~~errors~~ HAVE ORDERED.

13 (2) (a) ~~No later than August 31, 1988, and every second~~  
14 ~~anniversary thereafter, the water clerk, in cooperation with the division~~  
15 ~~engineer, shall cause notice of the availability of the biennial tabulation~~  
16 ~~to be included in the resume described in section 37-92-302 (3) of cases~~  
17 ~~filed in the respective water divisions during the month of July. In~~  
18 ~~addition, the water clerk shall cause such publication of the notice as is~~  
19 ~~necessary to obtain general circulation once in each county or portion~~  
20 ~~thereof in the division. A~~ THE STATE ENGINEER AND THE RESPECTIVE  
21 DIVISION ENGINEER SHALL MAKE A copy of ~~such biennial~~ THE tabulation  
22 ~~shall be~~ available for inspection in ~~the~~ THEIR offices of ~~the state and~~  
23 ~~respective division engineers and the respective water commissioners and~~  
24 ~~water clerks~~ at any time during regular office hours, AS WELL AS ON THE  
25 STATE ENGINEER'S WEB SITE, and shall ~~be~~ MAKE THE TABULATION  
26 available for purchase ~~from the office of the state engineer and respective~~  
27 ~~division engineer by any person specifically requesting same upon the~~

1 ~~payment of~~ FOR a fee of ten dollars.

2 (3) ~~Not later than July 1, 1989, and every second anniversary~~  
3 ~~thereafter,~~ Any person wishing to object to the manner in which a water  
4 right or conditional water right is listed in the ~~biennial~~ tabulation or to the  
5 omission of a water right or conditional water right from ~~such biennial~~  
6 THE tabulation, and not later than July 1, 1991, and every tenth  
7 anniversary thereafter, any person wishing to object to the inclusion of  
8 any absolute water right or portion thereof in the decennial abandonment  
9 list ~~shall~~ MUST file a statement of objection in writing with the division  
10 engineer. ~~A fee of ten dollars shall be paid with such filing; except that~~  
11 ~~no fee shall be required for any such filing to correct any clerical error.~~

12 (4) (c) The DIVISION ENGINEER SHALL FILE THE decennial  
13 abandonment list, together with any revisions, signed by the division  
14 engineer and the state engineer or his OR HER duly authorized deputy,  
15 ~~shall be filed~~ with the water clerk as promptly as possible, but not later  
16 than December 31, 1991, and every tenth anniversary thereafter. EACH  
17 RESPECTIVE DIVISION ENGINEER, WATER CLERK, AND THE STATE ENGINEER  
18 SHALL MAKE a copy of ~~such~~ THE decennial abandonment list, together  
19 with any revisions, ~~shall be available in the office of each respective~~  
20 ~~division engineer and the offices of each water commissioner, the state~~  
21 ~~engineer, and the respective water clerk~~ AVAILABLE for inspection IN  
22 THEIR OFFICES at any time during regular office hours, AS WELL AS ON THE  
23 STATE ENGINEER'S WEB SITE, and the division engineer shall furnish or  
24 mail a copy to anyone requesting ~~same~~ A COPY upon payment of a fee of  
25 ~~ten dollars~~ IN AN AMOUNT SET IN SECTION 37-80-110 (1) (h).

26 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-92-308, **amend**  
27 (4) (c), (5) (c), (6), and (10) (d) as follows:

1           **37-92-308. Substitute water supply plans - special procedures**  
2           **for review - water adjudication cash fund - legislative declaration -**

3           **repeal.** (4) (c) When the state engineer approves or denies a substitute  
4 water supply plan, the state engineer shall serve a copy of the decision on  
5 all parties to the pending water court application BY ELECTRONIC MAIL,  
6 OR, IF A PARTY HAS ELECTED, by first-class mail. Neither the approval nor  
7 the denial by the state engineer shall create any presumptions, shift the  
8 burden of proof, or serve as a defense in the pending water court case or  
9 any other legal action that may be initiated concerning the substitute  
10 water supply plan. Any appeal of a decision made by the state engineer  
11 concerning a substitute water supply plan pursuant to this subsection (4)  
12 shall be to the water judge of the applicable water division within thirty  
13 days and shall be consolidated with the application for approval of the  
14 plan for augmentation.

15           (5) (c) When the state engineer approves or denies a substitute  
16 water supply plan, the state engineer shall serve a copy of the decision on  
17 all parties to the application BY ELECTRONIC MAIL, OR IF A PARTY HAS  
18 ELECTED, by first-class mail. ~~or, if such parties have so elected, by~~  
19 ~~electronic mail.~~ Neither the approval nor the denial by the state engineer  
20 shall create any presumptions, shift the burden of proof, or serve as a  
21 defense in any legal action that may be initiated concerning the substitute  
22 water supply plan. Any appeal of a decision made by the state engineer  
23 concerning a substitute water supply plan pursuant to this subsection (5)  
24 shall be made to the water judge in the applicable water division within  
25 thirty days, who shall hear such appeal on an expedited basis.

26           (6) The state engineer shall establish a substitute water supply  
27 plan notification list for each water division for the purposes of notifying

1 interested parties pursuant to subparagraph (II) of paragraph (b) of  
2 subsection (3) of this section and subparagraph (II) of paragraph (a) of  
3 subsection (5) of this section. Beginning in July 2002, and in January of  
4 each year thereafter, in order to establish ~~such~~ THE notification list, the  
5 water clerks in each division shall include in the water court resume an  
6 invitation to be included on ~~such~~ THE notification list for the applicable  
7 water division. Persons on the substitute water supply plan notification  
8 list shall receive notice of all substitute water supply plans filed in that  
9 water division pursuant to subsections (3) and (5) of this section by ~~either~~  
10 ELECTRONIC MAIL OR, IF A PERSON HAS ELECTED, BY first-class mail. ~~or,~~  
11 ~~if a person so requests, by electronic mail.~~ Persons may be required to pay  
12 a fee, not to exceed twelve dollars per year, to be placed on the  
13 notification list.

14 (10) (d) When the state engineer approves or denies a substitute  
15 water supply plan pursuant to this subsection (10), the state engineer shall  
16 serve a copy of the decision on all parties who have subscribed to the  
17 substitute water supply plan notification list for water division 1 and all  
18 parties to the water court case in which the plan for augmentation was  
19 decreed by ELECTRONIC MAIL OR, IF A PARTY HAS ELECTED, BY first-class  
20 mail. ~~or, if such parties have so elected, by electronic mail.~~ Neither the  
21 approval nor the denial by the state engineer ~~shall create~~ CREATES any  
22 presumptions, ~~shift~~ SHIFTS the burden of proof, or ~~serve~~ SERVES as a  
23 defense in any legal action involving the substitute water supply plan.  
24 Any appeal of a decision made by the state engineer concerning a  
25 substitute water supply plan approved or denied pursuant to this  
26 subsection (10) ~~shall~~ MUST be made within thirty-five days after the date  
27 of service of the decision. Any ~~such~~ appeal shall be filed under the same

1 case number as the decreed plan for augmentation and ~~shall~~ MUST be  
2 heard under the retained jurisdiction of the water judge, using the  
3 procedures and standards set forth in sections 37-92-304 and 37-92-305,  
4 for determination of matters rereferred to the water judge by the referee.  
5 The water judge shall hear and determine any ~~such~~ appeal on an  
6 expedited basis. The applicant for the substitute water supply plan shall  
7 not use the proposed substitute water supply in the decreed plan for  
8 augmentation until any appeal under this paragraph (d) is decided by the  
9 water court. Following the determination on appeal by the water court, the  
10 applicant's use of water under the substitute water supply plan shall be  
11 governed by ~~such~~ THE water court determination, unless the terms of the  
12 augmentation plan decree provide otherwise.

13 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-92-309, **amend** (4)  
14 (a) as follows:

15 **37-92-309. Interruptible water supply agreements - special**  
16 **review procedures - rules - water adjudication cash fund - legislative**  
17 **declaration - definitions.** (4) (a) When the state engineer approves or  
18 denies an interruptible water supply agreement, the state engineer shall  
19 serve a copy of the decision upon all parties to the application by  
20 ELECTRONIC MAIL OR, IF A PARTY HAS ELECTED, BY first-class mail. ~~or, if~~  
21 ~~such parties have so elected, by electronic mail.~~ Neither the approval nor  
22 the denial of the agreement by the state engineer ~~shall create~~ CREATES any  
23 presumptions, ~~shift~~ SHIFTS the burden of proof, or ~~serve~~ SERVES as a  
24 defense in any legal action that may be initiated concerning the  
25 interruptible water supply agreement. Any appeal of a decision made by  
26 the state engineer concerning the operation of an interruptible water  
27 supply agreement pursuant to this section ~~shall~~ MUST be expedited, ~~shall~~



1 be limited to the issue of injury, and ~~shall be~~ made within thirty-five days  
2 after mailing of the decision to the water judge in the applicable water  
3 division. All parties to the appeal shall pay to the water clerk a fee to  
4 cover the direct costs associated with the expedited appeal. The water  
5 judge shall hear and determine ~~such~~ THE appeal using the procedures and  
6 standards set forth in sections 37-92-304 and 37-92-305 for determination  
7 of matters rereferred to the water judge by the referee; except that the  
8 water judge shall not deem any failure to appeal all or any part of the  
9 decision of the state engineer or failure to state any grounds for appeal to  
10 preclude any party from raising any claims of injury in a future  
11 proceeding before the water judge. The proponent of the interruptible  
12 water supply agreement ~~shall be~~ IS deemed to be the applicant for  
13 purposes of application of such procedures and standards. Moneys from  
14 ~~such~~ THE fee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and deposited in  
15 the water adjudication cash fund, which fund is hereby created in the state  
16 treasury. The general assembly shall appropriate moneys in the fund for  
17 the judicial department's expedited adjudications pursuant to this section.

18 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
19 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
20 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
21 6, 2014, if adjournment sine die is on May 7, 2014); except that, if a  
22 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
23 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
24 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
25 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
26 November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
27 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.