

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0103

Date: January 22, 2013

Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Hodge
Rep. Sonnenberg

Bill Status: Senate Agriculture

Fiscal Analyst: Kirk Mlinek (303-866-2756)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE DELETION OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR A FINAL PERMIT FOR ALL WELLS WITHDRAWING DESIGNATED GROUND WATER FROM THE DENVER BASIN AQUIFERS.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: August 7, 2013, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 8, 2013, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed. The bill applies to permits issued in the affected aquifers before, on, or after the applicable effective date.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014: None required.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill is recommended by the **Water Resources Review Committee**. It eliminates the requirement that the state engineer issue a final permit for any Denver Basin well that is in compliance with an existing conditional permit. The Denver Basin is a water-bearing geologic formation underlying the urban Front Range that is comprised of four distinct nonrenewable bedrock aquifers, the Dawson, Denver, Arapahoe, and Laramie-Fox Hills aquifers. The basin is generally bounded by Colorado Springs on the south, Greeley on the north, the foothills on the west, and Limon on the east.

Under current law, the requirement for a final permit does not apply to wells permitted after July 1, 1991, that are withdrawing designated ground water from Denver Basin aquifers. Currently, there are approximately 50 wells in the Denver Basin with conditional permits that predate July 1, 1991. This bill eliminates the final permit requirement for all wells withdrawing ground water from Denver Basin aquifers.

State Expenditures

The state engineer in the Division of Water Resources (DWR), Department of Natural Resources, issues final permits for the wells that are the subject of the bill. The elimination of the final permits for the subject wells will decrease the DWR's workload since staff will not be required to perform final permit-related analyses for those wells. The amount of time spent preparing a final permit is minimal; therefore, the overall savings in DWR staff time is expected to be minimal.

Departments Contacted

Natural Resources