



**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 12-0125**Date:** May 17, 2012**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Brophy
Rep. Sonnenberg**Bill Status:** Signed into Law**Fiscal Analyst:** Lauren Ris (303-866-3264)

TITLE: CONCERNING POSTPONEMENT OF THE REPEAL OF REQUIREMENTS TO REPLACE WELL DEPLETIONS TO THE DENVER BASIN AQUIFERS.**Summary of Legislation**

Current law requires wells that pump from the Dawson aquifer to replace actual out-of-priority depletions, which are calculated using certain assumptions about water levels in the aquifer. The law also specifies that the replacement obligation for all Denver basin aquifers continues after pumping stops to compensate for depletions. This law is scheduled to repeal on July 1, 2012. As of this date, a new law will automatically become effective that will require wells that pump from the Dawson aquifer to use calculations based on actual aquifer conditions in order to replace stream depletions, instead of using assumptions about water levels in the aquifers. Additionally, depletion replacement after pumping ceases will be required only when there is a need to compensate for injurious depletions. There is currently no modeling tool available to calculate depletions according to actual aquifer conditions. Therefore, this bill postpones the repeal of the current law until July 1, 2015. The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect March 8, 2012.

Assessment

This bill is assessed at no fiscal impact. The bill continues the existing water management framework and, as such, it does not change department workload.

Departments Contacted

Natural Resources