

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
**STATUTORY PUBLIC ENTITY
 FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0447 Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Fischer Sen. Jones	Date: January 15, 2014 Bill Status: House Agriculture Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)
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SHORT TITLE: GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT DIST ENFORCEMENT AUTH

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill increases the authority of ground water management districts (GWMDs) to:

- enforce permits and district rules for all wells in a district;
- issue orders requiring compliance with permits and rules;
- collect fines of up to \$500 per day from a well owner who fails to follow a compliance order; and
- collect court costs and attorney fees.

Background

GWMDs are local districts whose boards are authorized by law to enforce the terms of permits issued for small-capacity wells as well as their own rules and regulations. Board members receive no compensation but are paid for their actual expenses while engaged in district business. GWMDs have bonding authority, the ability to levy and collect taxes, and to assess and certify a special assessment on certain water wells to finance district activities. There are 13 GWMDs in the 8 designated ground water basins in the eastern plains. These areas have very little surface water, so water users rely primarily on ground water as their source of water supply.

Statutory Public Entity Impact

This bill increases the workload of GWMDs and allows them to collect fines from well owners. Increased workload and fine revenue will depend on local decisions to pursue violators and existing levels of compliance with ground water regulations in each district. GWMDs are able to adjust their revenue sources to cover their expenditures, so the fiscal note assumes that GWMDs will be able to fund the cost of any increased enforcement workload.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature, and applies to conduct occurring on or after the effective date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources

Judicial