

**LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0653	Date: February 18, 2014
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Vigil	Bill Status: House Local Government
Sen. Grantham	Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

SHORT TITLE: ELECT PUEBLO CONSERVANCY DIST BD FLOOD MITIGATION

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

** This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.*

Summary of Legislation

Under the first part of this bill, a vacancy is created on a water conservancy district board of directors when a director no longer lives in the district.

The remainder of the bill applies only to the board of directors of the Pueblo Conservancy District (district). The bill increases the number of district board members from three to seven, with the current three members serving as holdover, at-large directors. Four new directors will be elected within subdistricts or at-large as follows;

- a Colorado City metropolitan district resident to serve an initial term of two years;
- a City of Pueblo resident to serve an initial term of three years;
- a Pueblo West metropolitan district resident to serve an initial term of four years; and
- a resident of a portion of Pueblo County that is not within a subdistrict to serve an initial term of five years.

The district must reimburse the Clerk and Recorder of Pueblo County for the expenses of holding a district election.

The district may expend district revenues for the following purposes, in this priority order:

1. maintenance, repair, replacement, or improvement of the district's existing flood control levees;
2. flood mitigation projects in the affected watershed upstream of the district's existing flood control levees; and
3. flood mitigation projects in the affected watershed downstream of the district's existing flood control levees.

Background

The Water Conservancy Act provides a mechanism for local communities to form, through local elections, water conservancy districts to reduce flood risk, and finance dams, tunnels, and other water projects that provide water for irrigation, mining, domestic, recreation, and other beneficial uses. Colorado currently has 52 water conservancy districts. District director vacancies are filled by state district court appointment for five-year terms.

Local Government Impact

The fiscal note assumes that district board elections will be held as part of coordinated elections by the Pueblo Clerk and Recorder creating an increase in cost and workload for Pueblo County. The costs for the election will depend on how many other items are on the ballot but are estimated to be approximately \$34,000 per election for the territory within the district. If no other items are on the ballot to share costs with the district, an election could cost the district approximately \$165,000. Because the directors' terms are staggered by one year, the fiscal note assumes that election costs of at least \$34,000 will be an annual expenditure for the district.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 6, 2014, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 7, 2014, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

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