

UPDATED SUMMARY  
SENATE BILL 10-098  
Second Regular Session - Sixty-seventh Colorado General Assembly

*This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house. It does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.*

~~Section 1 of the bill directs that, on July 1, 2010, and on or before July 1 of each calendar year thereafter, moneys in the conservation trust fund shall be transferred to the department of agriculture (department) for the purposes of assisting with the funding of state natural resource conservation and noxious weed management efforts:~~

~~The amount of moneys to be transferred from the conservation trust fund on an annual basis consists of:~~

- ~~• \$5 million to the conservation district grant fund; and~~
- ~~• \$2.5 million to the noxious weed management fund.~~

~~The amounts transferred from the conservation trust fund increase if the interest rate on moneys held in the conservation trust fund increases:~~

~~Section 3 of the bill authorizes the state conservation board (board) to award grant moneys (grant program) out of moneys transferred from the conservation trust fund exclusively to conservation districts to be used for the purpose of implementing and maintaining natural resource conservation efforts. The grant moneys are awarded to conservation districts through a merit-based application process developed and administered by the board. Section 3 of the bill also deletes existing statutory language under which the grant program would be repealed in 2011.~~

~~Section 5 of the bill authorizes the department to award grant moneys out of moneys transferred from the conservation trust fund only to local governments for the purpose of funding programs at the local level to address noxious weed infestations. Requires applications for grant moneys to be made to and reviewed by the state noxious weed advisory committee (committee). Requires the committee to award grant moneys to local governments through a merit-based application process developed and administered by the committee. For any state fiscal year, requires that one-half of the moneys transferred to the fund for that year shall be exclusively allocated for grant awards to county governments and the other one-half of the moneys transferred shall be allocated to all local governments, including counties. In the discretion of the committee, payment of a grant award may be made at the time of approval of the grant instead of requiring the recipient to incur expenses for reimbursement from a grant award at a later date. Prohibits a local government from receiving grant moneys unless the local government has first created a weed management plan.~~

~~Section 5 of the bill also requires the department to annually prepare a report to the legislative committees of the general assembly exercising jurisdiction over agricultural and natural resource matters describing the moneys received and expended by the board in connection with the grant program.~~

~~Section 6 of the bill requires the board to annually prepare a report to the legislative committees of the general assembly exercising jurisdiction over agricultural and natural resource matters describing the moneys received and expended by the board in connection with the grant program involving natural resource conservation efforts.~~

*Under existing law, counties and certain special districts (eligible entities) are entitled to receive a regular distribution of moneys from the conservation trust fund (CTF). Current law already authorizes eligible entities to cooperate or contract with any other government or political subdivision in connection with the utilization of moneys from the CTF. Section 2 of the bill explicitly includes conservation districts and local noxious weed control programs among the governments or political subdivisions with which an eligible entity may cooperate or contract in the utilization of such moneys. Section 2 also requires that any moneys utilized by a conservation district or a local noxious weed control program under the bill may only be expended for natural conservation or noxious weed control projects on public lands.*