

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

BILL 6

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LLS NO. 14-0251.01 Bob Lackner x4350

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Water Resources Review Committee

House Committees

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A LEGISLATOR WATER EDUCATION**
102 **FUND TO FINANCE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS**
103 **OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

Water Resources Review Committee. The bill creates the legislator water education fund (fund) in the state treasury. The fund is to be administered by the executive committee of the legislative council (council). The bill specifies the sources of available resources for the fund

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

and other requirements pertaining to the use of moneys in the fund.

Moneys in the fund are to be used to make payment to or to reimburse legislators for actual and necessary expenditures for the cost of admission, travel, or lodging for attendance at conferences, conventions, fact-finding missions or trips, or other meetings that enable such legislators to contribute to and monitor the conservation, use, development, and financing of the water resources of the state.

A legislator need not be a member of the water resources review committee or any other legislative committee or body to accept payment or reimbursement from the fund.

All requests for payment or reimbursement from the fund for expenses arising from water resources-related educational opportunities must be approved by the council. The council, guided as necessary by the staff agencies of the general assembly, is required to develop criteria for granting or denying payment or reimbursement from the fund and in prioritizing requests for payment or reimbursement.

Any payment or reimbursement made to a legislator from the fund must satisfy all legal requirements governing the ethical conduct of members of the general assembly.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 2-3-312 as
3 follows:

4 **2-3-312. Legislator water education fund - creation -**
5 **legislative declaration.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS,
6 DETERMINES, AND DECLARES THAT:

7 (I) THE COLORADO TERRITORY, WHICH LATER BECAME THE STATE
8 OF COLORADO, WAS INTENTIONALLY CREATED TO ENCOMPASS THE
9 HEADWATERS OF FOUR GREAT RIVER BASINS THAT ARE VITAL TO THE
10 NATURAL HERITAGE AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF THE WESTERN
11 UNITED STATES;

12 (II) COLORADO'S STRATEGIC LOCATION ALONG THE CONTINENTAL
13 DIVIDE PLACES ITS PEOPLE IN THE UNIQUE AND AWESOME POSITION OF
14 BEING STEWARDS OF A SCARCE RESOURCE ON WHICH [REDACTED] MILLION

1 PEOPLE IN EIGHTEEN DOWNSTREAM STATES DEPEND ON A DAILY BASIS;
2 (III) THROUGHOUT COLORADO'S HISTORY, VISIONARY LEADERS
3 HAVE RECOGNIZED THE STATE'S UNIQUE ROLE AS STEWARDS OF OUR
4 SCARCE WATER RESOURCES AND HAVE RISEN TO MEET THE NEED FOR WISE
5 MANAGEMENT, THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING, AND VIGILANT
6 SAFEGUARDING OF THIS INVALUABLE FLOWING COMMODITY;
7 (IV) TOGETHER WITH THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION
8 BOARD, THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER, AND THE WATER COURT
9 SYSTEM, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS SHARED AND WILL CONTINUE TO
10 SHARE A SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN STATE GOVERNMENT FOR
11 PROTECTING, SUSTAINING, AND ENHANCING COLORADO'S SCARCE WATER
12 RESOURCES;
13 (V) TODAY, CHANGING DEMANDS AND GROWING UNCERTAINTY
14 REQUIRE A NEW ERA OF RESPONSIBILITY CHARACTERIZED BY A SENSE OF
15 URGENCY ABOUT WATER. IN THIS NEW ERA, THE NEED FOR THOUGHTFUL
16 COLLABORATION, VISIONARY LEADERSHIP, AND INNOVATION TO MEET
17 LOOMING FUTURE WATER SUPPLY GAPS WILL BE IMPERATIVE.
18 (VI) WITH THE SAME STRATEGIC INTENTIONALITY THAT
19 CHARACTERIZED THE DRAWING OF COLORADO'S BOUNDARIES OVER ONE
20 HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS AGO, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHARES A
21 RESPONSIBILITY WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE
22 SECTOR FOR EDUCATING, MENTORING, AND DEVELOPING ITS FUTURE
23 WATER LEADERS; AND
24 (VII) TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE, WISE STEWARDSHIP OF OUR
25 SCARCE RESOURCES WILL DEPEND MORE THAN EVER ON THE KNOWLEDGE
26 OF ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS REGARDING WATER RESOURCES, QUALITY,
27 AND ADMINISTRATION.

1 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS, DETERMINES, AND
2 DECLARES THAT:

3 (I) IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE THE
4 PARTICIPATION OF LEGISLATORS IN THE DIVERSITY OF AVAILABLE WATER
5 EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES; AND

6 (II) A PERMANENT MECHANISM FOR FUNDING LONG-TERM AND
7 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION BY LEGISLATORS IN WATER EDUCATION
8 OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FORM OF A LEGISLATOR WATER EDUCATION FUND
9 SHOULD BE CREATED. FURTHER, THE USE OF MONEYS FROM THE FUND
10 MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH THE ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS TO WHICH
11 LEGISLATORS ARE SUBJECT, INCLUDING ARTICLE 18 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S.,
12 AND ARTICLE XXIX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

13 (2) (a) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE
14 LEGISLATOR WATER EDUCATION FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS
15 THE "FUND", TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
16 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CREATED IN SECTION 2-3-301 (1). THE FUND
17 CONSISTS OF ALL MONEYS APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND BY THE GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY, ANY ADDITIONAL MONEYS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE STATE OR
19 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE FUND, AND ANY MONEYS RECEIVED FOR
20 THE FUND FROM ANY OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOURCE. ALL SUCH
21 MONEYS MUST BE TRANSMITTED TO THE STATE TREASURER TO BE
22 TRANSMITTED TO THE FUND.

23 (b) ALL MONEYS IN THE FUND ARE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL
24 APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ANY MONEYS IN THE FUND
25 AT THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND AND DO NOT
26 REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND.

27 (3) (a) MONEYS IN THE FUND ARE TO BE USED TO PAY OR

1 REIMBURSE LEGISLATORS FOR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENDITURES
2 FOR THE COST OF ADMISSION, TRAVEL, OR LODGING FOR ATTENDANCE AT
3 CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, FACT-FINDING MISSIONS OR TRIPS, OR
4 OTHER MEETINGS THAT ENABLE SUCH LEGISLATORS TO CONTRIBUTE TO
5 AND MONITOR THE CONSERVATION, USE, DEVELOPMENT, AND FINANCING
6 OF THE WATER RESOURCES OF THE STATE.

7 (b) AS LONG AS MONEYS FROM THE FUND ARE USED FOR THE
8 PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3) AND THE
9 OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION ARE SATISFIED, MONEYS FROM
10 THE FUND MAY BE USED TO PAY OR REIMBURSE A LEGISLATOR FOR WATER
11 RESOURCES-RELATED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES REGARDLESS OF
12 WHETHER THE LEGISLATOR ACCEPTING PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT IS
13 A MEMBER OF THE WATER RESOURCES REVIEW COMMITTEE CREATED IN
14 SECTION 37-98-102 (1), C.R.S., OR ANY OTHER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
15 OR BODY.

16 (4) ANY LEGISLATOR WISHING TO RECEIVE PAYMENT OR
17 REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE FUND FOR EXPENSES RELATING TO WATER
18 RESOURCES-RELATED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES MUST SUBMIT
19 REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE
20 COUNCIL CREATED IN SECTION 2-3-301 (1). THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
21 MAY APPROVE OR DENY THE REQUEST. THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, GUIDED
22 AS NECESSARY BY THE STAFF AGENCIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
23 SHALL DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OR DENYING PAYMENT OR
24 REIMBURSEMENT FOR WATER RESOURCES-RELATED EDUCATIONAL
25 OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE FUND AND IN PRIORITIZING REQUESTS IF
26 REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT EXCEED AVAILABLE
27 MONETARY RESOURCES.

1 (5) ANY PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT MADE TO A LEGISLATOR
2 FROM THE FUND MUST SATISFY ALL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING
3 THE ETHICAL CONDUCT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
4 INCLUDING ARTICLE 18 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S., AND ARTICLE XXIX OF THE
5 STATE CONSTITUTION.

6 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
7 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.