



SB24-037

SHORT TITLE: Study Green Infrastructure for Water Quality Management

LONG TITLE: Concerning alternative mechanisms for achieving compliance with water quality standards.

SPONSORS: Senators Simpson and Bridges/Representatives Lynch and McCormick

COMMITTEES: Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To study the potential benefits of using natural processes for water quality treatment rather than building new treatment plants

PROPONENTS OF THE BILL: Water and Ag Resources Review committee

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Water Treatment facilities; conservation organizations; water providers; water users; farmers and ranchers

BACKGROUND: Proponents hypothesize that a feasibility study and pilot project may demonstrate increased interest and green financing for water quality treatment that is more climate friendly and potentially lower cost than traditional “grey infrastructure.” Potential benefits could include pollutant trading, carbon credits and financing from environmental organizations.

Is this bill necessary this year? There is no deadline

How does the bill change current law? It does not change law; it simply directs a study and pilot project.

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No

How is the bill implemented? The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is directed to conduct a feasibility study and a pilot project concerning the use of “green infrastructure” for water quality treatment and to report back to the Water and Ag Resources Review Committee on their findings. Municipalities and water providers that are interested in green infrastructure must be identified by December 31, 2024.

Practical considerations: How will a pilot project demonstrate compliance with water quality standards?

Fiscal Impact: The project would cost slightly over one million dollars for FY 24-25, and slightly over one-half million each of the two subsequent years.