



**HB25-1115**

**SHORT TITLE:** Water Supply Measurement & Forecasting Program

**LONG TITLE:** Concerning the Colorado water conservation board's administration of a water supply measurement program.

**SPONSORS:** Representatives McCluskie and Soper/Senators Roberts and Catlin

**COMMITTEES:** House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

**PURPOSE OF THE BILL:** To expand the power and duties of the Colorado Water Conservation Board to include a water supply measurement and forecasting program

**PROPONENTS OF THE BILL:** CWCB, Dept. of Natural Resources

**POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS:** Reservoir operators, water providers, water forecasters, CWCB, cities, owners of irrigation water rights

**BACKGROUND:** Snowpack measurement is done by a variety of entities and require significant financial resources. In view of the critical role snowpack plays in providing water resources for the state, it is believed that a more centralized approach to forecasting would streamline the process and through the use of new technologies for data collection which would improve the ability of water managers to plan for storage and release from reservoirs. The bill authorizes CWCB to administer a water supply measurement and forecasting program to collect and disseminate data on snowpack levels, investigate technological advances in snowpack measurement and water supply forecasting, and collect other data.

**Is this bill necessary this year (is there a deadline) ?** There is no deadline.

**How does the bill change current law?** It adds to the powers and duties of the CWCB and provides funding for the expanded duties

**Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system?** No

**How is the bill implemented?** It appears to be self-executing once funds are made available

**Fiscal Impact.** \$122,850 for FY 25-26 and \$126,770 for FY 26=27/ This includes 1.0 FTE Physical Science Researcher with specialty in snow and water measurement for administrative support and to oversee coordination of data collection and dissemination. Other costs included are primarily for IT services and data storage.