

Summary of Legislation

2025



Water

Alexa Kelly | alexa.kelly@coleg.gov

Water policy continues to be an important theme in the 75th General Assembly. Water-related bills from this session focused on water quality, water administration efficiency, and municipal water use. Three measures that are generally passed annually, which allocate funding for species conservation and water projects, were also passed. As water resources become more limited with ongoing drought and shrinking snowpack, water policy is likely to continue to be a main concern for lawmakers.

Funding Water and Native Species

Each year, legislators typically consider two bills and one resolution that allocate funding for water projects and species conservation. This session, these measures included:

- [House Joint Resolution 25-1004](#), which approved water projects funded through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund and the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund administered by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority;
- [House Bill 25-1318](#), which authorized \$5 million for species conservation projects; and

- [Senate Bill 25-283](#), which appropriated about \$54 million for other water-related projects.

Municipal Water Use and Management

A handful of bills focused on municipal water use and management. Specifically, bills were considered regarding tap fees, rainwater collection, turf installation, and backflow prevention devices.

Tap Fees

Following the rise of tap fees and their variability, [House Bill 25-1211](#) placed some limitations on them. The bill created requirements for the board of a sanitation district, water and sanitation district, or water district to ensure the tap fee is relative to the cost of providing water service and to consider certain factors that contribute to a property's water use.

Rainwater Collection

Under current law, rainfall can be collected from a residential rooftop if no more than two barrels with a combined storage of 110 gallons are used, and the collected water is used for outdoor purposes only. [House Bill 25-1106](#), which was postponed indefinitely, would have removed these prohibitions to

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allow unlimited rainwater collection and utilize it for any purpose on residential property.

Turf Installation

Over the last few sessions, the General Assembly has considered restricting non-essential landscaping turf on certain properties. [House Bill 25-1113](#) expands existing prohibitions on the use of nonfunctional turf or invasive plants to include residential property with 12 or more dwelling units.

Backflow Prevention Devices

Backflow prevention devices protect water from contamination. [House Bill 24-1344](#) initially expanded plumbing licensure requirements to cover all backflow device work, including inspection, testing, and repair—not just installation and removal as previously required. However, [House Bill 25-1077](#), requested by the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee, reversed this expansion, specifying that inspection, testing, and repair of these devices no longer require a plumbing occupational license.

Increasing Water Administration Efficiency

In an effort to increase efficiency within state government, two bills changing certain administrative processes were passed. [House Bill 25-1014](#) modified procedures and fees for groundwater use permitting and the timing of a report on abandoned water

rights produced by the Division of Water Resources in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Joint Budget Committee also addressed the backlog in water quality permits in the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). [Senate Bill 25-305](#) made a variety of changes to existing law, including requiring CDPHE to do the following:

- submit a report on prioritization and inspections;
- establish a time frame for processing permit applications; and
- consider local government financing of water infrastructure when developing compliance schedules.

Future of Severance Taxes

Requested by the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee, [Senate Bill 25-040](#) created a task force in DNR to explore options to continue funding water needs due to the anticipation of decreasing severance tax revenues.

Measuring Water Supply

[House Bill 25-1115](#) tasked the Colorado Water Conservation Board with administering a water supply measurement program to collect snowpack level data, investigate technological advances, and collect other data to assist in snowpack measurement, water supply forecasting, and flood hazard mapping.