

HB 25-1106: REMOVE PRECIPITATION COLLECTION LIMITATIONS

Prime Sponsors: Fiscal Analyst:

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill removes certain limitations on the collection and use of rainwater from residential rooftops.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

Minimal State Workload

Local Government

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, rainfall may be collected from a residential rooftop if no more than two barrels with a combined storage of 100 gallons is employed; the collected rainwater is used for outdoor purposes only; and, the water is not used for drinking water or indoor household purposes. This bill removes these specific prohibitions on residential rooftop collection and use to allow rainwater to be collected without limit, and permit any use on the residential property where the precipitation is collected.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) must revise best practices for the use of potable water collected from residential rooftops, in addition to the existing best practices for nonpotable use of water.

State Expenditures

Department of Natural Resources

The bill minimally increases workload in the Department of Natural Resources for the Colorado Water Conservation Board's (CWCB) Water Supply & Planning Section, as well as the Division of Water Resources, to respond to public inquiries about how precipitation can be legally collected. The department will need to update information on its website. Further, CWCB may be consulted on impacts because of its role in water supply and conservation, and involvement in rainwater harvesting policy discussions with local water suppliers. This increased workload does not require new appropriations.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Under current law, CDPHE develops best practices for nonpotable usage of collected rain water from rooftops to the extent possible and within existing resources. The department will apply the same approach to the use of potable water, if applicable. This increased workload does not require new appropriations.

Local Government

The impact on local governments will depend on the increased use of rain barrels to collect precipitation. A high usage rate of rain barrels in concentrated areas will result in a reduction in municipal water usage, particularly for landscape application, and corresponding revenue reduction. This may be partially offset by a reduction in the cost to purchase and purify drinking water by municipal water providers.

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Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources

Public Health and Environment