



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 21-0188	Date:	June 16, 2021
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Donovan Rep. Roberts	Bill Status:	Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: **FORMER INMATES WITH FIRE SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires the Department of Public Safety to develop information materials for individuals who have experience in wildland fire management through the Inmate Disaster Relief Program in the Department of Corrections, and to create a peer mentor program for individuals hired from that program. It will increase state workload beginning in FY 2021-22.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Summary of Legislation

The bill prohibits the Wildland Fire Management Section in the Department of Public Safety's Division of Fire Prevention and Control (division) from disqualifying an applicant for employment solely due to the applicant's conviction of a felony or other offense involving moral turpitude.

By July 1, 2022, the bill requires the division to develop materials that increase awareness of career opportunities in the Wildland Fire Management Section for individuals who acquired fire service experience through the Inmate Disaster Relief Program. The Department of Corrections must distribute these materials to individuals who have participated in the program. Additionally, the bill requires the division to develop a peer mentor program for individuals who are hired based on their experience in the Inmate Disaster Relief Program so they may continue to develop and sustain professional skills.

Finally, during the 2021 and 2022 legislative interims, the Wildfire Matters Review Committee is required to review and may propose legislation or other policy changes relating to maximizing the utilization of wildland fire services through the inmate disaster relief program.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2021-22, the bill increases workloads in the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Department of Corrections (DOC), and the Legislative Department.

Department of Public Safety. The DPS will have an increase in workload to assemble and distribute informational materials to the DOC and to develop and implement a peer mentor program. Because the peer mentor program is substantially similar to current new employee training and professional development practices in the DPS, no change in appropriations is required.

Department of Corrections. The DOC will have a minimal increase in workload to distribute the DPS materials to individuals in the Inmate Disaster Relief Program, which can be accomplished during the normal course of business.

Legislative Department. The Wildfire Matters Review Committee and its legislative staff will include a review of inmate disaster relief programs during the 2021 and 2022 legislative interims within existing resources.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on April 15, 2021.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections
Law
Natural Resources

Forest Service
Legislative Council
Public Safety

Information Technology
Legislative Legal Services