

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 22-0189.03 Megan Waples x4348

**SENATE BILL 22-002**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Ginal and Story, Lee**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Cutter and Will, Lynch, Snyder, Valdez D.**

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**Senate Committees**

Local Government  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING INCREASING THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR FIRE**  
102              **PROTECTION SERVICES PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEER AND**  
103              **SEASONAL FIREFIGHTERS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Wildfire Matters Review Committee.** The bill allows fire departments, including fire protection districts and volunteer fire departments, to be compensated from state funding sources for wildland fire suppression activities conducted in the fire department's jurisdiction if the fire department relies primarily or solely on volunteer firefighters,

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

the fire exceeds the department's capacity to extinguish or control, and the period of mutual aid has ended. The fire department must use money received to compensate volunteer firefighters in accordance with guidelines adopted by the division of fire prevention and control (division) in the annual wildfire preparedness plan. Boards of county commissioners are authorized to reimburse fire departments from county funds for wildland fire suppression activities conducted within the fire department's jurisdiction in the same circumstances.

The bill amends the existing local firefighter safety and disease prevention fund grant program (program) to allow grants to be spent to provide access to mental health services for seasonal and volunteer firefighters involved in wildland fire suppression in addition to purchasing equipment and providing training. The bill requires the program to give priority in awarding grants to governing bodies and volunteer fire departments that:

- Have lost tax revenues as a result of decreased assessment values due to a wildland fire within their jurisdiction in the previous 5 years;
- Rely solely or primarily on volunteer firefighters and serve communities affected by wildland fires; or
- Demonstrate the greatest need for additional funding to ensure the safety of volunteer and seasonal firefighters.

The general assembly is required to annually appropriate \$5 million to the program and may appropriate additional money as necessary to meet the needs of governing bodies and volunteer fire departments. On or before September 1, 2032, the staff of the joint budget committee is required to report on whether the amount of the annual appropriation should be adjusted based on current needs.

In addition, the division may use money in the firefighter safety and disease prevention fund to reimburse mental and behavioral health-care specialists for services provided to firefighters who have served as volunteer or seasonal wildland firefighters, in accordance with rules adopted by the division.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1220, **add**  
3 (6) as follows:

4           **24-33.5-1220. Funds available - emergency fire fund - wildland**  
5 **fire equipment repair fund - wildland fire cost recovery fund -**  
6 **creation - gifts, grants, and donations authorized - rules.**

1 (6) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A FIRE  
2 DEPARTMENT IS ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR WILDLAND FIRE  
3 SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OR DESIGNATED  
4 BOUNDARIES OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S  
5 EMERGENCY FUND AND THE WILDLAND FIRE COST RECOVERY FUND IF:

6 (I) THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RELIES SOLELY OR PRIMARILY ON  
7 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, AS  
8 DETERMINED UNDER GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE DIVISION IN THE  
9 ANNUAL WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS PLAN REQUIRED BY SECTION  
10 24-33.5-1227 (2)(a);

11 (II) THE WILDLAND FIRE EXCEEDS THE CAPABILITIES OF THE FIRE  
12 DEPARTMENT TO CONTROL OR EXTINGUISH; AND

13 (III) THE MUTUAL AID PERIOD FOR THAT FIRE HAS ENDED.

14 (b) THE FIRE DEPARTMENT MUST USE MONEY RECEIVED PURSUANT  
15 TO THIS SUBSECTION (6) TO PAY FOR THE COSTS OF EQUIPMENT USED IN  
16 FIRE SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRE AND TO  
17 COMPENSATE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS PURSUANT TO GUIDELINES  
18 ADOPTED BY THE DIVISION IN THE ANNUAL WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS PLAN  
19 REQUIRED BY SECTION 24-33.5-1227 (2)(a).

20 (c) THE DIVISION AND EACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHALL  
21 MODIFY ANY INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS GOVERNING  
22 REIMBURSEMENT FOR WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES AS  
23 NECESSARY TO ALLOW REIMBURSEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
24 SUBSECTION (6).

25 (d) THE DIRECTOR MAY PROMULGATE RULES AS NECESSARY TO  
26 IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION (6).

27 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1226,

1 **amend** (2.5) as follows:

2 **24-33.5-1226. Wildfire emergency response fund - creation -**  
3 **gifts, grants, and donations authorized - rules.** (2.5) In addition to any  
4 other purpose for the use of money in the wildfire emergency  
5 ~~preparedness~~ RESPONSE fund specified in this section, the division may  
6 use money in the fund to provide wildfire suppression assistance to  
7 county sheriffs, municipal fire departments, or fire protection districts  
8 throughout the state at no cost to such entities pursuant to annual  
9 guidelines published by the division in the wildfire preparedness plan  
10 required by section 24-33.5-1227 (2)(a).

11 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1231,  
12 **amend** (1), (2),      (3)(a), (3)(b), and (4); and **add** (3.5) as follows:

13 **24-33.5-1231. Local firefighter safety and disease prevention**  
14 **fund - creation - grants - rules.** (1) There is hereby created in the state  
15 treasury the local firefighter safety and disease prevention fund. The fund  
16 consists of all ~~moneys~~ MONEY that may be appropriated OR TRANSFERRED  
17 to the fund by the general assembly and all private and public ~~moneys~~  
18 MONEY received through gifts, grants, or donations that ~~are~~ IS transmitted  
19 to the state treasurer and credited to the fund. The state treasurer shall  
20 credit all interest earned from the investment of ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the  
21 fund to the fund. The ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the fund ~~are~~ IS hereby  
22 continuously appropriated to the division for the purposes indicated in  
23 this section. Any ~~moneys~~ MONEY not expended at the end of each fiscal  
24 year ~~remain~~ REMAINS in the fund and shall not be transferred to or revert  
25 to the general fund.

26     

27 (2) The division shall use the ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the fund to award

1 need-based grants to governing bodies and volunteer fire departments to  
2 provide funding or reimbursement for equipment and training designed  
3 to increase firefighter safety and prevent occupation-related diseases,  
4 INCLUDING THE COSTS OF DISPOSING OF AND REPLACING DAMAGED OR  
5 OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT. The division may expend up to three percent per  
6 year from the fund for its direct and indirect costs in administering the  
7 grant program. The general assembly intends that the need-based grants  
8 from the fund are in addition to, and do not supplant, other sources of  
9 funding regarding firefighting.

10 (3) The director shall promulgate rules governing the award of  
11 grants pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, including consideration  
12 of:

13 (a) The recommendations of the fire service training, certification,  
14 and firefighter safety advisory board, created in section 24-33.5-1204 (1),  
15 concerning the grant application process, funding priorities, and the  
16 criteria for awarding grants, SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
17 SUBSECTION (3.5) OF THIS SECTION;

18 (b) How to structure the grant application process, which must  
19 include a merit-based, peer-review process with grant reviewers from the  
20 Colorado state fire chiefs, Colorado professional fire fighters association,  
21 ~~and~~ the Colorado state fire fighters association, AND INDIVIDUALS WITH  
22 EXPERIENCE AS VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS in equal representation. The  
23 peer reviewers shall make recommendations to the director on the award  
24 of grants under the program.

25 (3.5) IN AWARDING GRANTS, THE DIVISION SHALL GIVE PRIORITY  
26 TO GOVERNING BODIES AND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS THAT:

27 (a) DEMONSTRATE THE GREATEST NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING

1 TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF VOLUNTEER AND SEASONAL FIREFIGHTERS;

2 (b) DEMONSTRATE A LOSS OF TAX REVENUE DUE TO DECREASED  
3 ASSESSMENT VALUES AS A RESULT OF A WILDLAND FIRE IN THE FIRE  
4 DEPARTMENT'S JURISDICTION IN THE PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS; OR

5 (c) RELY PRIMARILY OR SOLELY ON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND  
6 ARE SERVING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY WILDLAND FIRES.

7 (4) (a) (I) ~~On July 1, 2018, the state treasurer shall transfer two~~  
8 ~~hundred fifty thousand dollars from the general fund to the fund~~ FOR  
9 EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE FOUR  
10 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FUND FOR THE  
11 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY  
12 APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL MONEY TO THE FUND AS NECESSARY TO MEET  
13 THE NEEDS OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE STATE.

14 (II) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2032, THE STAFF OF THE JOINT  
15 BUDGET COMMITTEE SHALL REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT  
16 PROGRAM AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE JOINT BUDGET  
17 COMMITTEE AND TO THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE OR ANY  
18 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE AS TO WHETHER THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION  
19 REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (4)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION SHOULD BE ADJUSTED  
20 BASED ON THE CURRENT NEEDS OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE STATE.

21 (b) (I) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, the division shall  
22 ~~use this money to make~~ AWARD grants ~~under subsection (2) of~~ AT LEAST  
23 ONCE ANNUALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH this section ~~In no event shall any~~  
24 ~~individual grant be in excess of the amount of twenty-five thousand~~  
25 ~~dollars~~ AND SHALL ALLOW GOVERNING BODIES AND VOLUNTEER FIRE  
26 DEPARTMENTS TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR ON AN  
27 AS-NEEDED BASIS DUE TO EMERGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.



1 FIREFIGHTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

2 BENEFITS PROGRAM

3 29-5-501. Definitions. AS USED IN THIS PART 5, UNLESS THE  
4 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

5 (1) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES" INCLUDES BUT IS NOT  
6 LIMITED TO INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT SERVICES TO PREVENT, IDENTIFY,  
7 AND TREAT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS, SUBSTANCE MISUSE, SLEEP  
8 DISORDERS, AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS, INCLUDING SERVICES TO  
9 SUPPORT AN INDIVIDUAL'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH.

10 (2) (a) "EMPLOYER" MEANS:

11 (I) A MUNICIPALITY, SPECIAL DISTRICT, FIRE AUTHORITY, OR  
12 COUNTY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT THAT EMPLOYS ONE OR MORE  
13 FIREFIGHTERS;

14 (II) THE DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL CREATED IN  
15 SECTION 24-33.5-1201; AND

16 (III) A COUNTY SHERIFF, IF THE COUNTY SHERIFF IS THE  
17 AUTHORITY WITH JURISDICTION TO PROVIDE FIRE SUPPRESSION AND  
18 RESPONSE SERVICES WITHIN THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S JURISDICTION.

19 (b) "EMPLOYER" DOES NOT INCLUDE A POWER AUTHORITY  
20 CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 29-1-204 OR A MUNICIPALLY OWNED  
21 UTILITY.

22 (3) "FIREFIGHTER" MEANS A FULL- OR PART-TIME EMPLOYEE OF AN  
23 EMPLOYER WHOSE DUTIES ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE PROVISION  
24 OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES AND A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AS  
25 DEFINED IN SECTION 31-30-1102, INCLUDING A PERSON MEETING THIS  
26 DEFINITION WHO PROVIDES VOLUNTEER SERVICES TO A FIRE AUTHORITY  
27 CREATED BY AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT PROVIDING FIRE



1 PROTECTION.

2 (4) "FUND" MEANS THE FIREFIGHTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
3 BENEFIT PROGRAM CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 29-5-502 (3).

4 (5) "TRUST" MEANS A MULTIPLE EMPLOYER HEALTH TRUST, AS  
5 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 10-3-903.5 (7)(b)(I), ESTABLISHED FOR THE  
6 PURPOSES OF THIS PART 5.

7 **29-5-502. Required benefits - firefighter behavioral health**  
8 **benefit cash fund - reimbursement. (1) AN EMPLOYER SHALL PAY**  
9 **CONTRIBUTIONS INTO A MULTIPLE EMPLOYER HEALTH TRUST, AS**  
10 **DESCRIBED IN SECTION 10-3-903.5 (7)(b)(I), THAT IS ESTABLISHED FOR**  
11 **THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 5 IN ORDER TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
12 **CARE SERVICES TO ITS FIREFIGHTERS.**

13 (2) THE TRUST SHALL ESTABLISH EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTION  
14 LEVELS AND SHALL PROVIDE THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO  
15 EACH EMPLOYER'S FIREFIGHTERS FOR UP TO TEN YEARS AFTER THE  
16 FIREFIGHTER CEASES EMPLOYMENT OR VOLUNTEERING FOR THE  
17 EMPLOYER.

18 (3) (a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE  
19 FIREFIGHTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM CASH FUND. THE  
20 FUND CONSISTS OF ANY MONEY THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY  
21 APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER TO THE FUND.

22 (b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND  
23 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE  
24 FUND TO THE FUND.

25 (c) MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE  
26 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REIMBURSING  
27 EMPLOYERS FOR THE DIRECT COSTS OF COMPLYING WITH THIS SECTION.

1           (d) SUBJECT TO SUFFICIENT MONEY BEING AVAILABLE IN THE  
2 FUND, THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS SHALL FULLY REIMBURSE  
3 EMPLOYERS FROM THE FUND FOR THE DIRECT COSTS OF PAYING  
4 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TRUST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PART 5. THE  
5 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS MAY USE A PORTION OF THE MONEY IN  
6 THE FUND TO PAY ITS DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS IN IMPLEMENTING THIS  
7 SECTION.

8           (e) IF THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS, IN CONSULTATION  
9 WITH THE TRUST, DETERMINES THAT THE MONEY IN THE FUND EXCEEDS  
10 THE AMOUNT NEEDED TO FULLY REIMBURSE EMPLOYERS PURSUANT TO  
11 SUBSECTION (3)(d) OF THIS SECTION IN A GIVEN FISCAL YEAR, THE  
12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS MAY  
13 DIRECT THE STATE TREASURER TO TRANSFER THE EXCESS AMOUNTS TO  
14 THE LOCAL FIREFIGHTER SAFETY AND DISEASE PREVENTION FUND CREATED  
15 IN SECTION 24-33.5-1231 (1).

16           (4) (a) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL  
17 APPROPRIATE ONE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE  
18 FUND. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL MONEY  
19 TO THE FUND AS NECESSARY TO MEET THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE  
20 NEEDS OF FIREFIGHTERS ACROSS THE STATE.

21           (b) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2032, THE STAFF OF THE JOINT  
22 BUDGET COMMITTEE SHALL REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PART  
23 5 AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND  
24 TO THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE OR ANY SUCCESSOR  
25 COMMITTEE AS TO WHETHER THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION REQUIRED BY  
26 SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHOULD BE ADJUSTED BASED ON THE  
27 CURRENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF FIREFIGHTERS.

1           (5) IF, AT ANY TIME, THE FUNDING PROVIDED FOR THE BENEFIT  
2 REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION IS INSUFFICIENT TO COVER THE COST OF THE  
3 BENEFIT AND TO FULLY REIMBURSE EMPLOYERS FOR THEIR  
4 CONTRIBUTIONS, THEN THE REQUIREMENT IN THIS SECTION TO  
5 PARTICIPATE IN THE TRUST BECOMES OPTIONAL PURSUANT TO SECTION  
6 29-1-304.5.

7           (6) FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYER POLICIES AND BENEFITS, THE  
8 NEED FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SCREENING OR SERVICES IS TREATED  
9 AS AN ON-THE-JOB INJURY OR ILLNESS. THIS SUBSECTION (6) DOES NOT  
10 AFFECT ANY DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
11 CARE NEED IS COVERED UNDER THE "WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT OF  
12 COLORADO", ARTICLES 40 TO 47 OF TITLE 8.

13           (7) THE BENEFITS COVERED OR PAID FOR PURSUANT TO THIS  
14 SECTION MUST BE OFFSET BY ANY PAYMENTS MADE UNDER THE  
15 "WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT OF COLORADO", ARTICLES 40 TO 47 OF  
16 TITLE 8.

17           **29-5-503. Authority of the trust - rules - report.** (1) IN  
18 ADDITION TO ANY OTHER AUTHORITY GIVEN TO THE TRUST, THE TRUST  
19 HAS THE AUTHORITY TO:

20           (a) CREATE A PROGRAM DESCRIPTION TO FURTHER DEFINE THE  
21 BENEFITS AVAILABLE PURSUANT TO THIS PART 5;

22           (b) ESTABLISH AND MODIFY THE CONTRIBUTION RATES, BENEFIT  
23 LEVELS, AND STRUCTURE OF THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BASED ON  
24 ACTUARIAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND WITH INPUT FROM A COMMITTEE OF  
25 THE TRUST CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM LABOR, MANAGEMENT,  
26 VOLUNTEER, AND TRUST ADMINISTRATION; AND

27           (c) ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION

1 OF THE TRUST.

2 (2) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2024, THE TRUST, TOGETHER WITH  
3 THE DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
4 PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS, SHALL SUBMIT  
5 A REPORT TO THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE ON THE  
6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PART 5. THE REPORT MUST, AT A MINIMUM:

7 (a) DISCUSS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE FIREFIGHTER BEHAVIORAL  
8 HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM IS MEETING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE  
9 NEEDS OF FIREFIGHTERS IN THE STATE;

10 (b) ASSESS THE ONGOING FUNDING NEEDS OF THE TRUST AND  
11 WHETHER THE APPROPRIATION REQUIRED BY SECTION 29-5-502 (4)(a) IS  
12 SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW THE TRUST TO MEET THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
13 CARE NEEDS OF FIREFIGHTERS; AND

14 (c) RECOMMEND ANY CHANGES NEEDED TO MORE EFFECTIVELY  
15 MEET THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF FIREFIGHTERS ACROSS  
16 THE STATE.

17 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-22.5-103, **amend**  
18 (1)(d) as follows:

19 **29-22.5-103. Wildland fires - general authority and**  
20 **responsibilities.** (1) (d) The fire chief shall not seek reimbursement from  
21 the county for expenses incurred by the district for their own apparatus,  
22 equipment, and personnel used in containing or suppressing a wildfire  
23 occurring on private property within the boundaries of the district,  
24 EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 30-10-513 (3)(b).

25 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 30-10-513, **amend**  
26 (3) as follows:

27 **30-10-513. Duties of sheriff - coordination of fire suppression**

1 **efforts for forest, prairie, or wildland fire - expenses.** (3) (a) The  
2 board of county commissioners of any county may allow the sheriff,  
3 undersheriffs, deputies, municipal or county fire departments, fire  
4 protection districts, fire authorities, and such other persons as may be  
5 called upon to assist in controlling or extinguishing a prairie, forest, or  
6 wildland fire such compensation and reimbursement for other expenses  
7 necessarily incurred as the board deems just.

8 (b) THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ANY COUNTY MAY  
9 ALLOW A FIRE DEPARTMENT, FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, OR VOLUNTEER  
10 FIRE DEPARTMENT COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT FROM A COUNTY  
11 FUNDING SOURCE FOR OTHER EXPENSES NECESSARILY INCURRED IN  
12 CONTROLLING OR EXTINGUISHING A PRAIRIE, FOREST, OR WILDLAND FIRE  
13 WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OR BOUNDARIES OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, FIRE  
14 PROTECTION DISTRICT, OR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IF THE  
15 CIRCUMSTANCES SET FORTH IN SECTION 24-33.5-1220 (6)(a)(I), (6)(a)(II),  
16 AND (6)(a)(III) ARE MET, AS THE BOARD DEEMS JUST.

17 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 30-10-513.5, **add**  
18 (1)(c) as follows:

19 **30-10-513.5. Authority of sheriff relating to fires within**  
20 **unincorporated areas of county - liability for expenses.** (1) (c) THIS  
21 SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A COUNTY FROM REIMBURSING A FIRE  
22 PROTECTION DISTRICT, FIRE DEPARTMENT, OR VOLUNTEER FIRE  
23 DEPARTMENT FOR EXPENSES NECESSARILY INCURRED IN CONTROLLING OR  
24 EXTINGUISHING A PRAIRIE, FOREST, OR WILDLAND FIRE FROM A COUNTY  
25 FUNDING SOURCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 30-10-513 (3)(b).

26 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-3-903.5, **amend**  
27 **(7)(b)(I)** as follows:

1                    **10-3-903.5. Jurisdiction over providers of health-care benefits**

2                    **- rules. (7) (b) A multiple employer health trust is any trust that is:**

3                    **(I) Sponsored, maintained, and funded by one or more entities of**  
4                    **state government or political subdivisions of the state organized pursuant**  
5                    **to state law and is for the benefit of the entity's employees, including a**  
6                    **multiple employer health trust established for the purposes of part 3, or**  
7                    **4, OR 5 of article 5 of title 29; or**

8                    **SECTION 9. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
9                    determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
10                    preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.