

**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. 22-0177.01 Brita Darling x2241

**SENATE BILL 22-007**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lee and Story, Ginal**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Cutter and Snyder,**

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**Senate Committees**

Local Government  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING OUTREACH TO THE PUBLIC RELATING TO WILDFIRE RISK**  
102 **MITIGATION PRACTICES.**

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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 requires the Colorado state forest service (forest service) to convene a working group (working group) that includes the division of fire prevention and control in the department of public safety (DFPC) and the United States forest service (USFS), and that may include other local, state, or federal partners and entities engaged in wildfire risk mitigation in the wildland-urban

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.*

interface (WUI).

The working group shall consider how best to conduct enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaigns in 2023 and 2024, as well as other outreach efforts that inform and motivate residents in the WUI to engage in more wildfire risk mitigation. The working group's considerations also include how best to distribute educational resources and information and which methods of outreach are most effective in reaching the targeted audience.

After considering feedback from the working group, and subject to available appropriations, the forest service shall implement an enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaign in conjunction with the DFPC and the USFS in 2023 and 2024, as well as other outreach efforts in the 2022-23 and 2023-24 state fiscal years.

In implementing an enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaign and other outreach efforts, the forest service may, subject to available appropriations:

- Develop or contract for the development or placement of marketing and educational materials, including videos, direct mail, social media, print media, television and radio spots, and billboards;
- Conduct or contract for educational events targeted to residents in the WUI;
- Retain consultants, as necessary, to implement all or part of an outreach campaign, as well as other outreach efforts;
- Make enhancements to the forest service's web-based clearinghouse for technical assistance and funding resources and coordinate with working group partners and other entities to provide links to web-based educational resources and information; and
- Secure necessary staff to implement the outreach efforts.

The bill requires the state forester to report to the wildfire matters review committee during the 2023 and 2024 legislative interims concerning the outreach efforts implemented pursuant to the bill, including the amount and use of money appropriated for outreach efforts and the impact of those efforts in increasing awareness of wildfire risk mitigation in the WUI.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-313, **add**  
3 (3)(h) and (9.5) as follows:

4           **23-31-313. Healthy forests - vibrant communities - funds**

1 **created - outreach working group - definitions - legislative**  
2 **declaration - repeal. (3) Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the  
3 context otherwise requires:

4 (h) "WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE" MEANS AN AREA WHERE  
5 STRUCTURES OR OTHER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT MEET OR INTERMINGLE  
6 WITH WILDLAND VEGETATION.

7 **(9.5) Wildfire risk mitigation public outreach and educational**  
8 **campaign - legislative declaration. (a) (I) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
9 **HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:**

10 (A) WILDFIRES INCREASINGLY POSE A THREAT TO HOMES AND  
11 COMMUNITIES IN COLORADO AS MORE PEOPLE MOVE INTO THE WILDLAND  
12 AREAS OF OUR STATE, AND LONG-TERM WEATHER AND CLIMATE TRENDS,  
13 INCLUDING DROUGHT AND WARMER TEMPERATURES, AS WELL AS THE  
14 BUILDUP OF WILDLAND FUELS, FURTHER INCREASE WILDFIRE RISK;

15 (B) IN 2020, COLORADO EXPERIENCED THE THREE LARGEST  
16 WILDFIRES IN ITS HISTORY, WITH THE FIRES BURNING OVER SIX HUNDRED  
17 THOUSAND ACRES, CAUSING SIGNIFICANT DISPLACEMENT, DEVASTATING  
18 COMMUNITIES, DEGRADING WATER AND AIR QUALITY, AND ULTIMATELY  
19 RESULTING IN THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF  
20 DOLLARS IN PROPERTY LOSS AND DAMAGE;

21 (C) LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES AND ENTITIES  
22 CONTINUE TO ADDRESS THE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM SOCIAL, ECONOMIC,  
23 AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THESE FIRES;

24 (D) WITH MORE THAN HALF OF ALL COLORADANS LIVING IN THE  
25 WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE, THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR WILDFIRE  
26 PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS AT BOTH THE COMMUNITY AND  
27 INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNER AND PROPERTY OWNER LEVELS;

1 (E) COORDINATED EDUCATION CONCERNING HOW, WHERE, AND  
2 WHY WILDFIRES BURN, AS WELL AS COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO INCREASE  
3 SURVIVABILITY OF HOMES AND PROPERTY, IS PARAMOUNT TO CO-EXISTING  
4 IN A WILDFIRE ENVIRONMENT; AND

5 (F) WHILE HOMEOWNERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS IN COLORADO  
6 BEAR THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY TO PREPARE THEIR HOMES AND  
7 PROPERTY FOR WILDFIRE, MANY STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS  
8 RESPONSIBILITY, THE RISK THEY FACE LIVING IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN  
9 INTERFACE, OR THE NECESSARY STEPS TO REDUCE THEIR WILDFIRE RISK.

10 (II) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS  
11 VITAL TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF COLORADO'S CITIZENS,  
12 COMMUNITIES, AND FORESTS FOR LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES  
13 IN COLORADO, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN  
14 WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION IN THE STATE, TO ENHANCE OUTREACH  
15 EFFORTS TO RESIDENTS IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE TO EDUCATE  
16 AND MOTIVATE THOSE RESIDENTS TO ENGAGE IN EFFECTIVE WILDFIRE RISK  
17 MITIGATION AND WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES.

18 (b) (I) THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL CONVENE A WORKING GROUP  
19 OF LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL PARTNERS ENGAGED IN WILDFIRE RISK  
20 MITIGATION, REFERRED TO IN THIS SUBSECTION (9.5) AS THE "WORKING  
21 GROUP", TO ENHANCE OUTREACH EFFORTS TO RESIDENTS IN THE  
22 WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE CONCERNING EFFECTIVE WILDFIRE RISK  
23 MITIGATION AND TO COORDINATE THE FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES  
24 THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH WORK. STATE AND FEDERAL  
25 PARTNERS INCLUDE THE DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN  
26 THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE UNITED STATES FOREST  
27 SERVICE. THE FOREST SERVICE MAY INVITE OTHER PARTNERS TO JOIN THE

1 WORKING GROUP AND SEEK INPUT FROM ENTITIES ENGAGED IN WILDFIRE  
2 RISK MITIGATION IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.

3 (II) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL:

4 (A) PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH  
5 OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS IN 2023 AND 2024, CONSIDER HOW BEST TO  
6 CONDUCT AN ENHANCED OUTREACH CAMPAIGN FOR THE PUBLIC THAT  
7 EDUCATES AND MOTIVATES RESIDENTS IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN  
8 INTERFACE TO ENGAGE IN MORE WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION;

9 (B) CONSIDER HOW BEST TO DISTRIBUTE EDUCATIONAL  
10 RESOURCES AND INFORMATION TO RESIDENTS IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN  
11 INTERFACE, INCLUDING THE FOREST SERVICE'S PUBLICATION, "THE HOME  
12 IGNITION ZONE" OR A SUCCESSOR PUBLICATION, AND WHETHER OTHER  
13 EDUCATIONAL AND MARKETING TOOLS COULD BE DEVELOPED TO EDUCATE  
14 RESIDENTS AND MOTIVATE INCREASED WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION;

15 (C) CONSIDER WHICH LOCAL, STATEWIDE, OR REGIONAL  
16 OUTREACH EFFORTS, INCLUDING DIRECT MAIL, WEB-BASED MATERIAL,  
17 TELEPHONE OUTREACH, SOCIAL MEDIA, PRINT MEDIA, TELEVISION AND  
18 RADIO SPOTS, BILLBOARDS, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS, ARE MOST  
19 EFFECTIVE IN INCREASING AWARENESS AMONG THE TARGETED RESIDENTS  
20 IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDFIRE  
21 RISK MITIGATION AND HOW TO PREPARE FOR WILDFIRES;

22 (D) CONSIDER HOW BEST TO COORDINATE EFFORTS BY WORKING  
23 GROUP PARTNERS AND OTHER ENTITIES ENGAGED IN WILDFIRE RISK  
24 MITIGATION TO DISSEMINATE WEB-BASED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND  
25 INFORMATION CONCERNING EFFECTIVE WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION AND  
26 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES THROUGH LINKS TO THE FOREST  
27 SERVICE'S WEB-BASED CLEARINGHOUSE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND

1 TO WEB-BASED RESOURCES OF OTHER WORKING GROUP PARTNERS AND  
2 ENTITIES ENGAGED IN WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION;

3 (E) CONSIDER HOW BEST TO LEVERAGE EXISTING STATE, LOCAL,  
4 AND FEDERAL RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE TO IMPLEMENT THE ENHANCED  
5 OUTREACH EFFORTS CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING GROUP; AND

6 (F) CONSIDER WHAT FUNDING OR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WOULD  
7 BE NECESSARY FOR THE FOREST SERVICE AND OTHER PARTNERS TO BUILD  
8 UPON THE ENHANCED WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH OUTREACH  
9 CAMPAIGN, AS WELL AS OTHER POTENTIAL OUTREACH EFFORTS, IN  
10 SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

11 (c) AFTER CONSIDERING FEEDBACK FROM THE WORKING GROUP,  
12 AND SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE FOREST SERVICE:

13 (I) SHALL IMPLEMENT AN ENHANCED WILDFIRE AWARENESS  
14 MONTH OUTREACH CAMPAIGN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIVISION OF FIRE  
15 PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
16 THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE IN 2023 AND 2024, AND, SUBJECT TO  
17 AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, MAY IMPLEMENT ENHANCED WILDFIRE  
18 AWARENESS MONTH OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS; AND

19 (II) MAY IMPLEMENT OTHER OUTREACH EFFORTS DURING THE  
20 2022-23 AND 2023-24 STATE FISCAL YEARS AND SUBSEQUENT STATE  
21 FISCAL YEARS THAT ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF WILDFIRE  
22 RISK MITIGATION BY RESIDENTS IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.

23 (d) (I) TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION (9.5), THE FOREST  
24 SERVICE, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, MAY:

25 (A) DEVELOP OR CONTRACT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OR  
26 PLACEMENT OF MARKETING AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, INCLUDING  
27 VIDEOS, DIRECT MAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA, PRINT MEDIA, TELEVISION AND

1 RADIO SPOTS, AND BILLBOARDS;

2 (B) CONDUCT OR CONTRACT FOR EDUCATIONAL EVENTS TARGETED  
3 TO RESIDENTS IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE;

4 (C) RETAIN CONSULTANTS, AS NECESSARY, TO IMPLEMENT ALL OR  
5 PART OF AN OUTREACH CAMPAIGN, AS WELL AS OTHER OUTREACH  
6 EFFORTS;

7 (D) MAKE ENHANCEMENTS TO THE FOREST SERVICE'S WEB-BASED  
8 CLEARINGHOUSE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING RESOURCES  
9 CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION, AS NECESSARY,  
10 TO BETTER IMPLEMENT OUTREACH EFFORTS DESCRIBED IN THIS  
11 SUBSECTION (9.5), AND COORDINATE WITH WORKING GROUP PARTNERS  
12 AND OTHER ENTITIES ENGAGED IN WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION TO PROVIDE  
13 LINKS TO WEB-BASED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION; AND

14 (E) SECURE NECESSARY STAFF TO IMPLEMENT THE OUTREACH  
15 EFFORTS DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (9.5).

16 (II) CONSISTENT WITH THE OUTREACH PLAN, THE GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE MONEY TO THE DIVISION OF FIRE  
18 PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

19 (e) (I) DURING THE 2023 AND 2024 LEGISLATIVE INTERIMS, THE  
20 STATE FORESTER SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE WILDFIRE MATTERS  
21 REVIEW COMMITTEE CREATED IN SECTION 2-3-1602 CONCERNING  
22 OUTREACH EFFORTS IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (9.5).

23 (II) THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE:

24 (A) A DESCRIPTION OF THE OUTREACH EFFORTS;

25 (B) THE AMOUNT AND USE OF MONEY APPROPRIATED TO  
26 IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION (9.5);

27 (C) DATA AND INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE FOREST SERVICE

1 OR ITS PARTNERS RELATING TO THE IMPACT OF THE OUTREACH EFFORTS IN  
2 INCREASING AWARENESS OF WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION BY RESIDENTS IN  
3 THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE; AND

4 (D) PROPOSED FUTURE OUTREACH EFFORTS, INCLUDING ANY  
5 ADDITIONAL FUNDING OR OTHER RESOURCES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT  
6 THOSE OUTREACH EFFORTS.

7 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
8 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.