

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 23-0141.01 Megan McCall x4215

SENATE BILL 23-032

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Simpson and Ginal, Danielson, Jaquez Lewis

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lynch, Story

Senate Committees

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WILDFIRE DETECTION**
102 **TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM PILOT PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION**
103 **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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 center of excellence for advanced technology aerial firefighting (center of excellence) in the division of fire prevention and control in the department of public safety to establish one or more remote camera technology pilot programs. The program may include the use of artificial

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

intelligence technologies. The center of excellence must acquire or contract for a system of remote pan-tilt-zoom cameras and associated tools to provide a live feed of information that can detect, locate, and confirm ignition in the wildland-urban interface. The center of excellence may acquire or contract for artificial intelligence technologies to assist in the detection, containment, and monitoring of wildfires. The center of excellence must report to the wildfire matters review committee on the system's effectiveness and potential for more widespread use in the state. The bill appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to implement the program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1228, **add**
3 (2.5)(f) as follows:

4 **24-33.5-1228. Colorado firefighting air corps - creation -**
5 **powers - aircraft acquisitions required - center of excellence -**
6 **unmanned aircraft systems study and pilot program - Colorado**
7 **firefighting air corps fund - creation - report - rules - repeal.**

8 (2.5) (f) (I) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2024, THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
9 SHALL IMPLEMENT ONE OR MORE PILOT PROGRAMS USING REMOTE
10 CAMERA TECHNOLOGY TO DETECT, IDENTIFY, OR CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE
11 OF WILDFIRES IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE. THE PILOT PROGRAM
12 OR PROGRAMS MAY INCLUDE THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
13 TECHNOLOGIES.

14 (II) TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS, SUBJECT
15 TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SHALL
16 ACQUIRE OR CONTRACT FOR A SYSTEM OF REMOTE PAN-TILT-ZOOM
17 CAMERAS AND ASSOCIATED TOOLS THAT PROVIDE A LIVE FEED OF
18 INFORMATION THAT CAN DISCOVER, LOCATE, AND CONFIRM IGNITION;
19 MONITOR FIRE BEHAVIOR THROUGH CONTAINMENT; PROVIDE ENHANCED
20 SITUATIONAL AWARENESS FOR EVACUATION AND FIRE RESPONSE

1 ACTIVITIES; AND ENSURE CONTAINED FIRES ARE MONITORED
2 APPROPRIATELY THROUGH THEIR DEMISE. THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
3 MAY ACQUIRE OR CONTRACT FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
4 TECHNOLOGIES TO ASSIST IN THE DETECTION, CONTAINMENT, AND
5 MONITORING OF WILDFIRES AS PART OF THE PILOT PROGRAM OR
6 PROGRAMS.

7 (III) THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SHALL CONSULT AND
8 COLLABORATE WITH OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES AND OTHER
9 STAKEHOLDERS IN THE FIRE SERVICE TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION AND
10 OPERATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS. AGENCIES OF STATE
11 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION, ASSISTANCE,
12 AND SITE ACCESS AS NECESSARY TO ALLOW THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
13 TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS.

14 (IV) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE AUGUST
15 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SHALL REPORT
16 ON THE PILOT PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS TO THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW
17 COMMITTEE OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE. THE REPORT MUST ANALYZE
18 THE INFORMATION RECEIVED THROUGH THE CAMERA SYSTEM AND, IF
19 IMPLEMENTED, THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM, THEIR VALUE IN
20 RESPONDING TO WILDFIRES OR POTENTIAL WILDFIRES, THE POTENTIAL FOR
21 MORE WIDESPREAD USE IN COLORADO, AND THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF
22 THE SYSTEMS IN RESPONDING TO WILDFIRES AND POTENTIAL WILDFIRES.
23 NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I),
24 THE REQUIREMENT TO REPORT IN THIS SUBSECTION (2.5)(f)(IV)
25 CONTINUES FOR THE DURATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

26 (V) THIS SUBSECTION (2.5)(f) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER
27 1, 2027.

1 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2023-24 state fiscal
2 year, \$720,368 is appropriated to the department of public safety. This
3 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the
4 department may use this appropriation as follows:

5 (a) \$25,750 for use by the executive director's office for vehicle
6 lease payments;

7 (b) \$138,533 for use by the division of fire prevention and control
8 for personal services, which amount is based on an assumption that the
9 division will require an additional 1.8 FTE; and

10 (c) \$556,085 for use by the division of fire prevention and control
11 for operating expenses.

12 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
13 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.