



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 23-0363
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Snyder

Date: July 6, 2023
Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
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Bill Topic: WILDFIRE RESILIENT HOMES

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 expanded the allowable uses of grant funding from the Wildfire Mitigation Resources and Best Practices Grant Program in the Colorado State Forest Service. The bill would have increased state workload beginning FY 2023-24.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee on February 27, 2023, therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Summary of Legislation

The Wildfire Mitigation Resources and Best Practices Grant Program in the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) provides grants to local governments, special districts, tribal agencies, and nonprofit organizations to conduct outreach among landowners regarding available resources and best practices for wildfire mitigation. This bill expands the allowable uses of grant funds to include implementing programs for landowners and developers in which houses in high risk areas are built or improved to make them more resilient to wildfires.

The CSFS must promote the benefits of building codes, strategies, and technologies that increase a home's wildfire resiliency, and may prepare educational materials for grant recipients to use for outreach. The CSFS may also identify programs for local grantees that include research-based resiliency standards, inspections, and certification of properties.

Background

The Wildfire Mitigation Resources and Best Practices Grant Program, created by [House Bill 22-1007](#), is being developed during the current FY 2023-24, with grant awards beginning no later than January 2024. For FY 2023-24, \$300,000 is available for the program to award in grants. The CSFS has administrative costs for the program of about \$40,000 and 0.6 FTE.

State Expenditures

While this bill expands the allowable uses of grant funds under the Wildfire Mitigation Resources and Best Practices Grant Program, it does not change the total amount of funding available for grants. Expanding the allowable use of grant funds may shift how available grant funds are used or increase the number of grant applications received by the CSFS. The bill also increases workload for the program to develop rules concerning these expanded uses, and to provide educational and outreach materials for use by grantees. These changes to the program do not require any change in appropriations.

The General Assembly, at its discretion, may appropriate additional funds to the grant program to increase the number and types of grants issued. The fiscal note will be updated if additional funding is allocated to the grant program by the bill.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Forest Service