

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0926.01 Megan McCall x4215

HOUSE BILL 24-1343

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Snyder,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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House Committees

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE WILDFIRE EVACUATION  
102 MODELING GRANT PROGRAM.

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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>.)*

The bill creates the wildfire evacuation modeling grant program (program) within the office of emergency management (office) for the purpose of awarding grants to eligible recipients to perform wildfire evacuation modeling and generate reports that include times, maps showing evacuation routes, and any other relevant metrics for the area for which the modeling is being conducted. The program is initially

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.*

administered as a pilot program and the office must establish a limited number of eligible recipients to receive grants. On or before December 1, 2025, the office must submit a report to the house of representatives agriculture, water, and natural resources committee and the senate agriculture and natural resources committee, or their successor committees, regarding the pilot program, which may include recommendations for improving the program and recommendations on whether to continue the program.

The bill also creates the wildfire evacuation modeling grant program cash fund (fund) for the purposes of awarding grants and covering administrative costs of the office for administering the program. On August 15, 2024, the state treasurer shall transfer \$120,000 from the general fund to the fund.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33.5-719 as  
3 follows:

4 **24-33.5-719. Wildfire evacuation modeling grant program -**  
5 **fund - report - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION,  
6 UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT" MEANS A COMMON INTEREST  
8 COMMUNITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 38-33.3-103 (8) OR A COMMUNITY  
9 ORGANIZATION THAT OPERATES AS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT.

10 (b) "FUND" MEANS THE WILDFIRE EVACUATION MODELING GRANT  
11 PROGRAM CASH FUND CREATED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

12 (c) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
13 CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-705 (1).

14 (d) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE WILDFIRE EVACUATION MODELING  
15 GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (2) (a) THERE IS CREATED WITHIN THE OFFICE THE WILDFIRE  
17 EVACUATION MODELING GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING  
18 FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS TO USE SCIENTIFIC

1 EVACUATION MODELING TO CONDUCT WILDFIRE EVACUATION MODELING  
2 AND GENERATE REPORTS THAT INCLUDE TIMES, MAPS SHOWING PRIMARY  
3 AND SECONDARY EVACUATION ROUTES WITH IDENTIFIED REFUGE AREAS,  
4 AND ANY OTHER METRIC OF RELEVANCE FOR THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA FOR  
5 WHICH THE MODELING IS BEING CONDUCTED.

6 (b) TO RECEIVE A GRANT, AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT MUST SUBMIT AN  
7 APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE IN A FORM AND MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE  
8 OFFICE.

9 (c) IN AWARDING GRANTS PURSUANT TO THE PROGRAM, THE  
10 OFFICE SHALL CONSIDER:

11 (I) THE LOCATION OF THE AREA IN WHICH THE ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT  
12 ANTICIPATES THAT IT WILL PERFORM WILDFIRE EVACUATION MODELING  
13 FOR, GIVING WEIGHT TO AREAS THAT ARE IN A WILDFIRE RISK AREA OF THE  
14 STATE;

15 (II) DEMONSTRABLE DEMAND FOR THE ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT TO  
16 PERFORM WILDFIRE EVACUATION MODELING AND GENERATE REPORTS;  
17 AND

18 (III) DEMONSTRABLE CAPACITY OF THE ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT TO  
19 PERFORM WILDFIRE EVACUATION MODELING AND GENERATE REPORTS,  
20 INCLUDING ACCESS TO THE TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED TO PERFORM THESE  
21 SERVICES.

22 (3) (a) THE OFFICE SHALL OPERATE THE PROGRAM INITIALLY AS A  
23 PILOT PROGRAM AND LIMIT THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS  
24 APPROVED TO RECEIVE GRANTS IN A NUMBER DETERMINED BY THE OFFICE.  
25 SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION (3),  
26 ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS MAY APPLY FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO THE PROGRAM  
27 UNTIL JUNE 30, 2025.

1 (b) NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2025, THE OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT  
2 A REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND  
3 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND  
4 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES,  
5 THAT INCLUDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM AND THE AMOUNT AND  
6 USES OF THE GRANTS AWARDED AS PART OF THE PILOT PROGRAM. THE  
7 REPORT MAY ALSO INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE  
8 PROGRAM AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE  
9 PROGRAM BEYOND THE PILOT PROGRAM.

10 (4) (a) THE WILDFIRE EVACUATION MODELING GRANT PROGRAM  
11 CASH FUND IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY. THE FUND CONSISTS OF  
12 MONEY APPROPRIATED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND BY THE GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY, ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS,  
14 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS THAT ARE TRANSMITTED TO THE STATE  
15 TREASURER AND CREDITED TO THE FUND, AND MONEY TRANSFERRED TO  
16 THE FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION. THE STATE  
17 TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE  
18 DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE FUND TO THE FUND.

19 (b) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY, THE OFFICE MAY EXPEND MONEY FROM THE FUND FOR THE  
21 PURPOSES OF AWARDED GRANTS FOR THE PROGRAM AND FOR NECESSARY  
22 COSTS IN ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM.

23 (5) (a) ON AUGUST 15, 2024, THIS STATE TREASURER SHALL  
24 TRANSFER ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE  
25 GENERAL FUND TO THE FUND.

26 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

27 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act

1 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
2 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
3 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
4 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
5 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
6 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
7 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
8 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.