

First Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT  
9.12.18

BILL 1

LLS NO. 19-0221.01 Conrad Imel x2313

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Wildfire Matters Review Committee

**BILL TOPIC:** "Wildland Fire Airspace Patrol System"

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM TO PATROL THE AIRSPACE**  
102 **ABOVE WILDLAND FIRES.**

**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, subject to available appropriations, to study and, if feasible, implement a system to patrol the airspace above a wildland fire.

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)(e) 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.**

8 (2.5) (e) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE CENTER OF  
9 EXCELLENCE SHALL STUDY AND, IF FEASIBLE, IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM TO  
10 PATROL THE AIRSPACE ABOVE A WILDLAND FIRE. THE PATROL SYSTEM  
11 MUST BE CAPABLE OF DETERMINING WHETHER THE AIRSPACE ABOVE  
12 WILDLAND FIRES IS CLEAR OF OBSTACLES, INCLUDING PRIVATE UNMANNED  
13 AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS, THAT MAY INTERFERE WITH AERIAL FIREFIGHTING.

14 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
15 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
16 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
17 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a  
18 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
19 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
20 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
21 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
22 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
23 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.