

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
10/9/23

Bill 7

LLS NO. 24-0425.01 Josh Schultz x5486

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Wildfire Matters Review Committee

BILL TOPIC: Standards For Wildfire Mitigation Efforts

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING STANDARDS FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROJECTS**
102 **SUPPORTED BY STATE FUNDS.**

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 to promulgate rules setting forth standards for any wildfire mitigation efforts supported in whole or in part by state funds. The bill requires any state agency or other entity conducting wildfire mitigation supported in whole or in part by state funds to comply with the rules.

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-31-321 as
3 follows:

4 **23-31-321. Wildfire mitigation standards - rules - definitions.**

5 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
6 REQUIRES, "FOREST SERVICE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION
7 23-31-310 (2)(c).

8 (2) (a) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 4 OF TITLE 24, BY JANUARY 1, 2025,
9 THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL PROMULGATE RULES FOR ANY WILDFIRE
10 MITIGATION EFFORTS SUPPORTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY STATE FUNDS.

11 (b) RULES PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MUST
12 REQUIRE THAT ANY WILDFIRE MITIGATION EFFORTS SUPPORTED IN WHOLE
13 OR IN PART BY STATE FUNDS:

14 (I) ARE BASED ON THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE AND SCIENTIFIC
15 APPLICATION TOOLS IN ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION STRATEGIES;

16 (II) FOCUS ON REDUCING THE RISK OF DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES
17 AND HARM TO PEOPLE, RESTORING NATURAL FIRE REGIMES AND THE
18 ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF COLORADO'S WILDFIRE-PRONE ECOSYSTEMS, AND
19 MINIMIZING UNINTENDED ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE;

20 (III) DO NOT HARM UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES;

21 (IV) ARE COST-EFFECTIVE AND ENABLE STRATEGIC INVESTMENT
22 OF LIMITED RESOURCES; AND

23 (V) ARE TRANSPARENTLY DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED
24 THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES REPRESENTING A WIDE RANGE OF
25 RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.

26 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 15 to article

1 75 of title 24 as follows:

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PART 15

3

STANDARDS FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROJECTS

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SUPPORTED BY STATE FUNDS

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24-75-1501. Wildfire mitigation standards. ANY STATE AGENCY

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OR OTHER ENTITY CONDUCTING WILDFIRE MITIGATION SUPPORTED IN

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WHOLE OR IN PART BY STATE FUNDS SHALL COMPLY WITH RULES

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PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-31-321.

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SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act

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takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the

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ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except

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that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V

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of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this

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act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take

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effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

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November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the

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official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.