

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

BILL A

LLS NO. 20-0377.01 Bob Lackner x4350

HOUSE BILL

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Carver and McCluskie, Cutter, Snyder, Will

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Coram and Fenberg, Ginal, Lee

House Committees

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE "FOREST RESTORATION AND**
102 **WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION ACT".**

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 makes the following modifications to the existing "Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Act" (act) and, specifically, the grant program funded by the act:

- Currently, grant applicants are required to self-finance 50% of the cost of a project funded by a grant. The bill, in the

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

case of a project that is located in an area with fewer economic resources, lessens this requirement so that grant applicants are required to self-finance 25% of the total cost of the project. The forest service is required to establish a policy that specifies the criteria by which a project will satisfy such requirements.

- Permits a grant project eligible to receive funding to support ongoing maintenance efforts undertaken by eligible recipients to reduce the threat of large, high-intensity wildfires.
- Adds to the list of recipients eligible to receive grant funding a fire protection district and a nonprofit organization or entity engaged in firefighting or fire management activities.
- Extends the date by which the grant program will be repealed to September 1, 2029.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-310, **amend**
3 (3), (4.5)(d), and (9); and **add** (4.3), (4.5)(f), and (4.5)(g) as follows:

4 **23-31-310. Forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation**
5 **grant program - technical advisory panel - legislative declaration -**
6 **definitions - repeal.** (3) **Grant projects.** The forest service shall issue
7 a statewide request for proposals for cost-share grants for projects that are
8 designed through a collaborative community process. The projects may
9 be entirely on, or on any combination of, private, state, county, or
10 municipal forest lands. The grant share of an individual project cost must
11 not exceed fifty percent of the total cost of the project or exceed one
12 million dollars per project. IN THE CASE OF A PROJECT THAT IS LOCATED
13 IN AN AREA WITH FEWER ECONOMIC RESOURCES, THE GRANT SHARE OF AN
14 INDIVIDUAL PROJECT COST MUST NOT EXCEED SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF
15 THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT OR EXCEED ONE MILLION DOLLARS PER
16 PROJECT. The remaining portion of the project's funding may be in the

1 form of cash, stumpage, or in-kind contribution. THE FOREST SERVICE
2 SHALL ESTABLISH A POLICY THAT SPECIFIES THE CRITERIA BY WHICH A
3 PARTICULAR PROJECT WILL SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT OF THIS
4 SUBSECTION (3) THAT IT IS LOCATED IN AN AREA WITH FEWER ECONOMIC
5 RESOURCES, AS APPLICABLE.

6 (4.3) IN ADDITION TO SATISFYING SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS
7 SECTION, A GRANT PROJECT THAT RECEIVES FUNDING UNDER THIS SECTION
8 MAY ALSO SUPPORT ONGOING MAINTENANCE EFFORTS BY ELIGIBLE
9 RECIPIENTS TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF LARGE, HIGH-INTENSITY
10 WILDFIRES.

11 (4.5) **Eligible recipients.** Eligible grant recipients include:

12 (d) State agencies, such as the state land board or the division of
13 parks and wildlife, that own lands or property in areas of high risk for
14 catastrophic wildfires; ~~and~~

15 (f) A FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 32-1-103
16 (7); AND

17 (g) A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY ENGAGED IN
18 FIREFIGHTING OR FIRE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.

19 (9) **Repeal.** This section is repealed, effective ~~September 1, 2022~~
20 SEPTEMBER 1, 2029.

21 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
22 takes effect September 1, 2020; except that, if a referendum petition is
23 filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against
24 this act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period
25 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,
26 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the

1 general election to be held in November 2020 and, in such case, will take
2 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the
3 governor.