

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

**Bill C**

LLS NO. 24-0423.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

**HOUSE BILL**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Velasco and Snyder**, Dickson

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Cutter and Will**, Jaquez Lewis, Ginal

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**House Committees**

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES TO APPLY FOR**  
102      **WILDFIRE-RELATED GRANT MONEY.**

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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/>.)*

**Wildfire Matters Review Committee.** The bill directs the rural opportunity office (office) in the Colorado office of economic development to assist rural communities with identifying and applying for state or federal grants for wildfire mitigation, prevention, response, or risk management efforts (wildfire-related grants).

On or before July 1, 2025, and on or before July 1 of every odd

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.

year thereafter, the office is required to prepare a report summarizing its work to assist rural communities with identifying and applying for wildfire-related grants. The report must include information about the rural communities that the office assists and the grants awarded to rural communities that the office assists. The office is required to submit the report to the wildfire matters review committee or, if the committee no longer exists, to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over natural resources matters.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-48.5-133, **amend**  
3 (3)(c) and (3)(d); and **add** (3)(e) and (4) as follows:

4           **24-48.5-133. Rural opportunity office - creation - duties -**  
5 **wildfire-related grants - technical assistance - legislative declaration**  
6 **- definition.** (3) The rural opportunity office shall:

7           (c) Make recommendations that inform the governor's policy on  
8 rural economic development matters, including policy on economic  
9 development issues unique to rural communities; ~~and~~

10           (d) Measure the success of program outreach and conduct research  
11 to determine whether Colorado's rural communities receive more  
12 statewide funding as a result of the efforts of the rural opportunity office;

13 AND

14           (e) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION,  
15 PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES TO IDENTIFY  
16 AND APPLY FOR GRANT MONEY MADE AVAILABLE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES  
17 FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION, PREVENTION, RESPONSE, OR RISK  
18 MANAGEMENT EFFORTS.

19           (4) (a) THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE SHALL:

20           (I) IDENTIFY, MAINTAIN, PERIODICALLY UPDATE, AND PUBLISH ON  
21 ITS PUBLIC WEBSITE A LIST OF STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS

1 AWARDING GRANT MONEY TO RURAL COMMUNITIES FOR  
2 WILDFIRE-RELATED GRANTS; AND

3 (II) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES TO:

4 (A) IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE WILDFIRE-RELATED GRANTS FOR  
5 WHICH TO APPLY; AND

6 (B) APPLY FOR WILDFIRE-RELATED GRANTS.

7 (b) (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, AND ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 OF  
8 EACH ODD YEAR THEREAFTER, THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE SHALL  
9 PREPARE A REPORT SUMMARIZING ITS WORK TO ASSIST RURAL  
10 COMMUNITIES WITH IDENTIFYING AND APPLYING FOR WILDFIRE-RELATED  
11 GRANTS. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

12 (A) THE RURAL COMMUNITIES THAT THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY  
13 OFFICE ASSISTED;

14 (B) THE RURAL COMMUNITIES THAT THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY  
15 OFFICE ASSISTED THAT WERE AWARDED GRANTS; AND

16 (C) OF THE RURAL COMMUNITIES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION  
17 (4)(b)(I)(B) OF THIS SECTION, HOW MUCH GRANT MONEY WAS AWARDED  
18 TO EACH RURAL COMMUNITY THAT THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE  
19 ASSISTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4).

20 (II) (A) THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT THE MOST  
21 RECENT REPORT TO THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE CREATED  
22 IN SECTION 2-3-1602 (1)(a) OR, IF THE COMMITTEE NO LONGER EXISTS, TO  
23 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND NATURAL  
24 RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL  
25 RESOURCES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. THE RURAL  
26 OPPORTUNITY OFFICE SHALL POST EACH REPORT ON ITS PUBLIC WEBSITE.

27 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE

1 REPORTING REQUIREMENT SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (4)(b)(II)(A) OF THIS  
2 SECTION CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

3 (c) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "WILDFIRE-RELATED GRANT" MEANS  
4 A FEDERAL OR STATE GRANT MADE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES,  
5 INCLUDING RURAL COMMUNITIES, WITH DESIGNING, DEVELOPING, OR  
6 OPERATING A WILDFIRE MITIGATION, PREVENTION, RESPONSE, OR RISK  
7 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY, INCLUDING ANY EDUCATION AND  
8 OUTREACH EFFORTS.

9 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
10 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
11 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
12 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
13 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
14 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
15 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
16 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
17 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.