

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**BILL D**

LLS NO. 20-0380.01 Megan Waples x4348

**SENATE BILL**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Fenberg and Coram**, Ginal, Lee

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McCluskie and Snyder**, Cutter

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING PROGRAMS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK THROUGH**  
102 **OUTREACH TO PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, AND, IN**  
103 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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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 requires the division of housing within the department of local affairs (division) to create a working group to identify emerging, promising, and best practices related to homeless outreach for the purpose of reducing wildfire risk in the wildland-urban interface. The bill also establishes 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.*

reducing wildfire risk through homeless outreach grant program within the division. Grant recipients can use grant money to conduct outreach among individuals experiencing homelessness to reduce wildfire risk consistent with the emerging, promising, and best practices the working group identifies. The grant program prioritizes applications that take a collaborative approach and are founded in local knowledge and expertise.

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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** 24-32-726 as  
3 follows:

4 **24-32-726. Reducing wildfire risk through homeless outreach**  
5 **- working group - promising and best practices - grant program -**  
6 **creation - report.** (1) AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER THE EFFECTIVE  
7 DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE DIVISION SHALL CONVENE A WORKING GROUP  
8 TO IDENTIFY AND MAKE FINDINGS REGARDING EMERGING, PROMISING, AND  
9 BEST PRACTICES FOR CONDUCTING OUTREACH TO PEOPLE EXPERIENCING  
10 HOMELESSNESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS IN THE  
11 WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE. THE WORKING GROUP MUST INCLUDE  
12 STAKEHOLDERS FROM STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY  
13 ORGANIZATIONS WITH RELEVANT INTERESTS, EXPERIENCE, AND  
14 EXPERTISE, AND MUST INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE  
15 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
16 SAFETY. THE DIVISION SHALL MAKE THE FINDINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP  
17 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

18 (2) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE DIVISION THE REDUCING  
19 WILDFIRE RISK THROUGH HOMELESS OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM,  
20 REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "GRANT PROGRAM". GRANT  
21 RECIPIENTS MAY USE THE MONEY TO CONDUCT OUTREACH AMONG  
22 INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF

1 REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE  
2 CONSISTENT WITH THE EMERGING, PROMISING, AND BEST PRACTICES  
3 IDENTIFIED BY THE WORKING GROUP IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION  
4 (1) OF THIS SECTION.

5 (3) THE DIVISION SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM AND,  
6 SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, SHALL AWARD GRANTS AS  
7 PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION. THE DIVISION SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH  
8 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROGRAM IN  
9 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. AT A MINIMUM, THE POLICIES AND  
10 PROCEDURES MUST SPECIFY THE TIME FRAMES FOR APPLYING FOR GRANTS,  
11 THE FORM OF THE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION, AND THE PROGRAM  
12 EVALUATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.

13 (4) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT, AN ENTITY MUST BE AN  
14 AGENCY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, A SPECIAL DISTRICT, A TRIBAL AGENCY  
15 OR PROGRAM, OR A NONPROFIT OR NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT  
16 IS REGISTERED AND IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE COLORADO SECRETARY  
17 OF STATE'S OFFICE. APPLICANTS MUST MEET ANY OTHER CRITERIA  
18 SPECIFIED IN THE DIVISION'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

19 (5) (a) THE DIVISION SHALL REVIEW THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED  
20 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. IN AWARDING GRANTS, THE DIVISION SHALL  
21 CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

22 (I) THE APPLICANT'S DEMONSTRATED ABILITY OR PAST RECORD OF  
23 USING THE EMERGING, PROMISING, AND BEST PRACTICES IDENTIFIED BY  
24 THE WORKING GROUP IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS  
25 SECTION;

26 (II) THE APPLICANT'S LOCAL EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE, AND  
27 CAPACITY IN THE AREA THE APPLICANT PLANS TO SERVE; AND

1 (III) THE APPLICANT'S PLAN TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER LOCAL  
2 ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND SERVICE PROVIDERS IN  
3 THE AREA THE APPLICANT PLANS TO SERVE.

4 (b) THE DIVISION SHALL PRIORITIZE APPLICATIONS THAT ADOPT A  
5 COLLABORATIVE APPROACH FOUNDED ON LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND  
6 EXPERTISE.

7 (6) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, ON OR BEFORE  
8 NOVEMBER 1 EACH YEAR OF THE GRANT PROGRAM, THE EXECUTIVE  
9 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS SHALL AWARD GRANTS  
10 AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION. GRANTS ARE AWARDED AT THE SOLE  
11 DISCRETION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
12 SECTION.

13 (7) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE  
14 SEPTEMBER 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL  
15 AFFAIRS SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW  
16 COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE, ON THE GRANT PROGRAM.  
17 NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE REPORTING  
18 REQUIREMENT CONTINUES UNTIL THE GRANT PROGRAM REPEALS.

19 (8) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE  
20 MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS  
21 TO IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL  
22 AFFAIRS MAY USE UP TO FIVE PERCENT OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY  
23 APPROPRIATED FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM TO PAY THE DIRECT AND  
24 INDIRECT COSTS THAT THE DIVISION INCURS TO ADMINISTER THE GRANT  
25 PROGRAM.

26 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2020-21 state fiscal year,  
27 \$100,000 is appropriated to the department of local affairs for use by the

1 division of housing. This appropriation is from the general fund. To  
2 implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for the  
3 reducing wildfire risk through homeless outreach grant program.

4 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.