

CHAPTER 210

NATURAL RESOURCES

HOUSE BILL 24-1024

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Story and Velasco, Snyder, Amabile, Bacon, Bird, Boesenecker, Brown, Clifford, Daugherty, Duran, English, Epps, Froelich, Hernandez, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, McCormick, Ortiz, Parenti, Ricks, Rutinel, Sirota, Valdez, McCluskie;
also SENATOR(S) Cutter, Jaquez Lewis, Buckner, Danielson, Exum, Fields, Gonzales, Michaelson Jenet, Priola, Fenberg.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS RELATING TO WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-313, **amend** (9.5)(c) and (9.5)(e)(I); and **add** (9.5)(f) as follows:

23-31-313. Healthy forests - vibrant communities - funds created - outreach working group - loan program - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal. (9.5) **Wildfire risk mitigation public outreach and educational campaign - legislative declaration - report - appropriation.** (c) After considering feedback from the working group, and subject to available appropriations, the forest service:

(I) Shall implement an enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaign in conjunction with the division of fire prevention and control in the department of public safety and the United States forest service in 2023 ~~and 2024, and, subject to available appropriations, may implement enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaigns in subsequent years~~ THROUGH 2027; and

(II) ~~May~~ SHALL implement other outreach efforts during the 2022-23 ~~and 2023-24~~ THROUGH 2026-27 state fiscal years ~~and subsequent state fiscal years~~ that are expected to increase awareness of wildfire risk mitigation by residents in the wildland-urban interface.

(e) (I) During the 2023 ~~and 2024~~ THROUGH THE 2027 legislative interims, the

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

state forester shall submit a report to the wildfire matters review committee created in section 2-3-1602 concerning outreach efforts implemented pursuant to this subsection (9.5) OR, IF THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE IS REPEALED, TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

(f) (I) FOR PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING ONGOING WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS AND OTHER OUTREACH EFFORTS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9.5)(c) OF THIS SECTION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE HEALTHY FORESTS AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES FUND CREATED IN SUBSECTION (10) OF THIS SECTION.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (9.5)(f) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2028.

SECTION 2. Appropriation. For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$40,000 is appropriated to the healthy forests and vibrant communities fund created in section 23-31-313 (10), C.R.S. This appropriation is from the general fund. The department of higher education is responsible for the accounting related to this appropriation.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

Approved: May 20, 2024