

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT

Committee on Agriculture, Water, & Natural Resources.

HB24-1006 be amended as follows:

1 Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and
2 substitute:

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

5 **23-31-321. Wildfire mitigation and preparedness - rural grant**
6 **navigator grant program - creation - administration - reporting -**
7 **definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
8 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

9 (a) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS
10 CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-125.

11 (b) "FOREST SERVICE" MEANS THE COLORADO STATE FOREST
12 SERVICE IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 23-31-302.

13 (c) "NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION" OR "NGO" HAS THE
14 MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 24-37.5-102 (20).

15 (d) "RURAL GRANT NAVIGATOR GRANT PROGRAM" OR
16 "COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE COMPETITIVE GRANT
17 PROGRAM AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

18 (2) (a) THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL ESTABLISH A RURAL GRANT
19 NAVIGATOR GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANT MONEY FOR
20 NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING OUTREACH AND
21 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING GRANT WRITING ASSISTANCE, TO
22 RURAL COMMUNITIES SEEKING TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL OR STATE GRANTS
23 RELATED TO WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS.

24 (b) ON OR AFTER MARCH 1, 2025, AN NGO ASSISTING ONE OR
25 MORE RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH OBTAINING FEDERAL OR STATE GRANTS
26 RELATED TO WILDFIRE MITIGATION OR PREPAREDNESS MAY APPLY TO THE
27 FOREST SERVICE FOR GRANT MONEY IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICATION
28 AND ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES THAT THE FOREST SERVICE ESTABLISHES
29 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION FOR THE COMPETITIVE
30 GRANT PROGRAM.

31 (3) (a) THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL CONSULT WITH NGOs THAT
32 CURRENTLY ASSIST OR ARE SEEKING TO ASSIST COLORADO COMMUNITIES
33 WITH WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS TO DEVELOP CRITERIA
34 AND GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

35 (b) THE CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO
36 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION MUST:

37 (I) BE COMPLETED AND POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE FOREST
38 SERVICE ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 28, 2025; AND

39 (II) INCLUDE CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR AT LEAST THE
40 FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM:

(A) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NGO APPLICANTS ASSISTING RURAL COMMUNITIES IN SEEKING FEDERAL OR STATE GRANT MONEY FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS;

(B) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS; AND

(C) PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED NGOs, INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN SELECTED NGOs TO ENSURE NONDUPLICATION OF EFFORTS AND FOR PERIODIC REPORTING.

(c) (I) AFTER THE FOREST SERVICE HAS CREATED THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM, THE FOREST SERVICE, TO THE BEST OF ITS ABILITY, SHALL CONSULT ON EFFECTIVE USES OF THE GRANT MONEY AND SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES WITH:

(A) THE DEPARTMENT;

(B) THE DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-1201 (1)(a);

(C) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE;

(D) A RURAL COUNTY ON THE WESTERN SLOPE;

(E) A RURAL COUNTY ON THE EASTERN PLAINS; AND

(F) A RURAL COUNTY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE.

(II) THE FOREST SERVICE, IN CONSULTATION WITH SELECTED NGOs, SHALL DEVELOP METRICS TO HELP THE FOREST SERVICE ASSESS THE SUCCESS OF THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

(4)(a) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2026, AND ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT SUMMARIZING THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM TO THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE CREATED IN SECTION 2-3-1602 (1)(a) OR, IF THE COMMITTEE NO LONGER EXISTS, TO BOTH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL POST COPIES OF THE REPORTS ON ITS WEBSITE.

(b) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136(11)(a)(I), THE WRITTEN REPORT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

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

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