



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 26-089: RECREATE WILDFIRE MATTERS INTERIM COMMITTEE

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Cutter; Baisley
Rep. Velasco

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill reestablishes the Wildfire Matters Review Committee, which repealed on September 1, 2025.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas through FY 2030-31:

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. For FY 2026-27, the bill requires an appropriation of \$61,662 to the Legislative Department.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts**

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$71,093	\$80,351
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.4 FTE	0.4 FTE

Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the table below.

**Table 1A
State Expenditures**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund	\$61,662	\$70,168
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$9,431	\$10,183
Total Expenditures	\$71,093	\$80,351
Total FTE	0.4 FTE	0.4 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The Wildfire Matters Review Committee repealed on September 1, 2025. The bill reestablishes the committee through June 30, 2031. As before, the interim committee is charged with reviewing and proposing legislation or other policy changes related to wildfire prevention, mitigation, and related matters, including public safety and forest health issues.

The committee consists of 10 legislative members serving two-year terms, with initial appointments required by June 1, 2026. It is required to meet at least twice per year and is permitted two field trips each interim.

Background

The Wildfire Matters Review Committee was originally established through Senate Bill 13-082. The committee met during the [2025 interim](#) and requested a bill to continue the committee; however, because the committee repealed before the Legislative Council meeting in November 2025, the bill could not be introduced in the 2026 session as an interim committee bill.

State Expenditures

The bill increases expenditures in the Legislative Department by about \$71,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$80,000 from FY 2027-28 to FY 2030-31. The bill will also increase workload for state agencies involved in wildfire matters. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below.

**Table 2
State Expenditures
Legislative Department**

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Personal Services	\$30,526	\$30,526
Operating Expenses	\$480	\$480
Legislator Per Diem	\$8,956	\$17,462
Travel Costs	\$21,700	\$21,700
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$9,431	\$10,183
FTE – Legislative Council Staff	0.3 FTE	0.3 FTE
FTE – Legislative Legal Services	0.1 FTE	0.1 FTE
Total Costs	\$71,093	\$80,351
Total FTE	0.4 FTE	0.4 FTE

Legislative Department

The bill increases Legislative Department costs to support the interim committee. Based on historical activity of the committee, the fiscal note assumes that the 10 members of the committee will meet four times per interim at the Capitol. In addition, the committee is assumed to have two field trips per interim, with each trip lasting two days.

Staff

The Legislative Department requires 0.4 FTE to support the committee, including policy and research staff support for meetings and committee research (0.3 FTE), and legal staff to draft legislation (0.1 FTE). Standard operating costs are included.

Legislator Per Diem and Travel/Expense Reimbursement

Per diem costs are based on a per diem rate of \$119.95 for each legislator in FY 2026-27, which is assumed to increase to \$218.28 in FY 2027-28. Per diem will be received for each committee meeting and field trip day. Travel and expense reimbursements for all committee members are estimated at \$124 for meetings at the Capitol, and at \$219 for each day that the committee meets outside of the Capitol.

Field Trip Travel Costs

Additional travel cost for the assumed field trips will be incurred for van rental and support staff travel expenses.

Other Agency Impacts

Beginning in FY 2026-27, the bill continues current workload for the Department of Public Safety, the Colorado State Forest Service, and other state agencies involved in wildfire prevention that collaborate with and assist the committee. No change in appropriations is required.

Centrally Appropriated Costs

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, indirect cost assessments, and other costs, are shown in Table 2 above.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$61,662 to the Legislative Department, and 0.4 FTE, as follows:

- \$13,916 to the General Assembly;
- \$37,402 to Legislative Council Staff and 0.3 FTE; and,
- \$10,344 to the Office of Legislative Legal Services and 0.1 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Legislative Department