A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM TO PATROL THE AIRSPACE ABOVE WILDLAND FIRES.

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 center of excellence for advanced technology aerial firefighting, subject to available appropriations, to study and, if feasible, implement a system to patrol the airspace above a wildland fire.
Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1228, add (2.5)(e) as follows:

24-33.5-1228. Colorado firefighting air corps - creation - powers - aircraft acquisitions required - center of excellence - unmanned aircraft systems study and pilot program - Colorado firefighting air corps fund - creation - report - rules.

(2.5)(e) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SHALL STUDY AND, IF FEASIBLE, IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM TO PATROL THE AIRSPACE ABOVE A WILDLAND FIRE. THE PATROL SYSTEM MUST BE CAPABLE OF DETERMINING WHETHER THE AIRSPACE ABOVE WILDLAND FIRES IS CLEAR OF OBSTACLES, INCLUDING PRIVATE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS, THAT MAY INTERFERE WITH AERIAL FIREFIGHTING.

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 (August 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); 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 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.