A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COLORADO FIRE COMMISSION.

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.)

The bill establishes the Colorado fire commission (commission) in the division of fire prevention and control in the department of public safety. The commission's purpose is to enhance public safety in Colorado through an integrated statewide process focused on the fire service's capacity to conduct fire management and use, preparedness, prevention, and response activities to safeguard lives, property, and natural resources,
and increase the resiliency of local and regional communities. The commission may establish task forces to study and make recommendations on specific subjects within the commission's areas of study. The commission is repealed effective September 1, 2024, and is subject to a sunset review prior to its repeal.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 24-33.5-1233 as follows:

24-33.5-1233. Colorado fire commission - creation - powers and duties - report - legislative declaration - repeal. (1) Legislative declaration. (a) The general assembly hereby finds that:

(1) The division has engaged in a two-year, stakeholder-driven strategic planning effort to evaluate fire programs throughout the state and identify areas in which the state can better support its partners;

(II) A commission structure will ensure accountability and create an efficient and streamlined statewide process for issuing recommendations, driving implementation of specific actions and policies, and reporting on progress and lessons learned;

(III) A commission will also help the state to be proactive on wildfire issues, and to develop a comprehensive approach that embraces mitigation, prevention, and preparedness; and

(IV) Establishing a fire commission will allow the state to continue to develop long-term strategies and recommendations on complex fire issues.

(b) Therefore, the general assembly declares that establishing a Colorado fire commission serves the interests of
THE STATE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR FIRE PREVENTION, MITIGATION, PREPAREDNESS, AND SUPPRESSION.

(2) **Commission created.** There is hereby created in the division the **Colorado Fire Commission**, referred to in this section as the "commission".

(3) **Membership.** (a) The commission consists of nineteen voting members as follows:

(I) The executive director, or the executive director's designee;

(II) The director, or the director's designee;

(III) The chief of the wildland fire management section in the division, or the chief's designee;

(IV) The state forester, or the state forester's designee, to include relevant information pursuant to section 23-31-316;

(V) A representative of the committee administering the emergency fire fund created in section 24-33.5-1220, selected by the committee; and

(VI) Fourteen members appointed by the executive director as follows:

(A) Two members appointed from nominees submitted by a statewide organization representing fire chiefs, with one such member representing the western slope and one such member representing the eastern part of the state;

(B) Two members appointed from nominees submitted by a statewide organization representing professional firefighters;

(C) Two members appointed from nominees submitted by a ...
STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS;

(D) Two members appointed from nominees submitted by a
statewide organization representing county sheriffs, with one
such member representing the western slope and one such
member representing the eastern part of the state;

(E) Two members appointed from nominees submitted by a
statewide organization representing counties, with one such
member representing the western slope and one such member
representing the eastern part of the state;

(F) One member appointed from nominees submitted by a
statewide organization representing municipalities;

(G) One member appointed from nominees submitted by a
statewide organization representing special districts;

(H) One member appointed from nominees submitted by a
statewide organization representing emergency managers; and

(I) One member appointed from nominees submitted by a
nonprofit organization with expertise in wildfire mitigation.

(b)(I) The executive director shall appoint one nonvoting
ex officio member who represents a statewide organization
representing public safety answering points.

(II) The executive director shall appoint two nonvoting
ex officio members who represent water providers, with one such
member representing the western slope and one such member
representing the eastern part of the state.

(III) The executive director may, in the executive
director's discretion, appoint additional nonvoting ex officio
members with expertise in the commission's areas of study to aid
THE COMMISSION IN FULFILLING ITS DUTIES.

(c) The commission includes the following nonvoting ex officio members:

(I) One representative from the United States forest service;

(II) One representative from the bureau of land management; and

(III) One representative from the National Park service.

(d) The executive director shall make initial appointments no later than August 5, 2019. The executive director shall consider geographic representation in appointing members of the commission. The executive director shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that the appointed members represent a balance of expertise in the areas of fire mitigation, prevention, preparedness, local community resiliency, and suppression.

(e) The term of appointments is four years; except that the term of each member initially appointed pursuant to subsections (3)(a)(VI)(C) to (3)(a)(VI)(F) of this section is two years. A member may be reappointed for additional terms. The executive director shall fill any vacancy by appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term. An appointment to fill a vacancy is subject to the requirements set forth for the vacant position in subsection (3)(a)(VI) or (3)(b) of this section, as applicable.

(f) Each member of the commission serves without compensation, but each voting member and each ex officio member appointed pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section is entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary travel...
EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS OR HER DUTIES AS A
MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION.

(g) The executive director or his or her designee is the
CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION.

(h) The commission shall meet at least once every three
MONTHS. The chair may call such additional meetings as are
NECESSARY FOR THE COMMISSION TO COMPLETE ITS DUTIES.

(4) Powers and duties. (a) The mission of the commission is
to enhance public safety in Colorado through an integrated
statewide process focused on the fire service’s capacity to
conduct fire management and use, preparedness, prevention, and
response activities to safeguard lives, property, and natural
resources, and increase the resiliency of local and regional
communities.

(b) In furtherance of its mission, the commission shall
consider the following issues:

(I) Developing an accurate understanding of Colorado’s
fire problems, including the number of injuries and fatalities,
overall fire losses, and the causes and origins of structural
and wildland fires;

(II) Reviewing the current emergency fire fund program
and providing recommendations to make it more inclusive of
counties throughout the state;

(III) Evaluating funding mechanisms for effective
response to large fires, with consideration given to appropriate
cost-share agreements, financial contributions, mitigation and
preparedness, mutual aid participation, and local actions and
PLANS;

(IV) ASSESSING THE CAPACITY OF THE STATE TO PROVIDE
EMERGENCY FIRE SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO LOCAL
COMMUNITIES;

(V) DEVELOPING PERFORMANCE MEASURES OF OVERALL RESPONSE
EFFECTIVENESS AND IDENTIFYING RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENT AREAS;

(VI) STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE COORDINATION
OF MUTUAL AID RESOURCES AND INITIAL ATTACK CAPABILITIES FOR FIRES
AND OTHER HAZARDS;

(VII) DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED
TO HIGH-RISK OCCUPANCIES FOR CONSIDERATION BY LOCAL JURISDICTIONS
AND COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO
MINIMUM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MUTUAL AID RESOURCES;

(VIII) DEVELOPING AND PUBLISHING AN ASSESSMENT OF FIRE
TREATMENT COSTS AND COST DISTRIBUTION, INCLUDING THE COSTS OF
MITIGATION UNDER EMERGENT AND NONEMERGENT CIRCUMSTANCES,
RETREATMENT COSTS, AND POST-RECOVERY COSTS;

(IX) DEVELOPING METHODICAL APPROACHES TO AND
RECOMMENDATIONS ON COLORADO'S FIRE SERVICE CONCERNS AND
ISSUES; AND

(X) FORECASTING UPCOMING FUNDING AND RESOURCE
CHALLENGES AND TRENDS THAT AFFECT FIRE SERVICES AND THE ABILITY
OF THE STATE AND OF LOCAL JURISDICTIONS TO RESPOND TO FIRE AND
MITIGATE HAZARDS IN THE SHORT AND LONG TERM.

(c) (I) THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH TASK FORCES TO STUDY
AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION ON SPECIFIC SUBJECT
MATTER AREAS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S AREA OF STUDY.
(II) When establishing a task force, the commission shall set forth the purpose of the task force and its membership, area of study, duties, and duration.

(III) The chair shall appoint the members of a task force, with the advice and consent of the commission. The chair may appoint individuals who are not members of the commission to serve on a task force. Members of a task force serve for the duration of the task force. Members of a task force who are not voting members of the commission or ex officio members of the commission appointed pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section serve without compensation and without reimbursement for expenses.

(5) **Staff support.** The division shall provide office space, equipment, and staff services as may be necessary to implement this section.

(6) **Reports.** (a) On or before August 31, 2020, and on or before August 31 each year thereafter, the commission shall submit a written report to the agriculture, livestock, and natural resources committee of the house of representatives and the agriculture, natural resources, and energy committee of the senate, or any successor committees. Notwithstanding the requirement in section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), the requirement to submit the report required in this subsection (6)(a) continues until the commission is repealed.

(b) On or before August 31, 2020, and on or before August 31 each year thereafter, the commission shall report to the wildfire matters review committee on its activities and...
RECOMMENDATIONS.

(7) **Repeal.** This section is repealed, effective September 1, 2024. Before its repeal, this section is scheduled for review in accordance with section 2-3-1203.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, add (15)(a)(VI) as follows:

2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees - legislative declaration - definition - repeal. (15) (a) The following statutory authorizations for the designated advisory committees are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2024:

(VI) **The Colorado Fire Commission created in section 24-33.5-1233.**

**SECTION 3.** 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.