

**First Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 19-0222.02 Bob Lackner x4350

HOUSE BILL 19-1006

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McLachlan and Carver,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields,

House Committees

Rural Affairs & Agriculture
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF WILDFIRES**
102 **WITHIN WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREAS, AND, IN**
103 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, CLARIFYING THE LEGISLATIVE**
104 **INTENT THAT STATE FUNDING OF THE EXISTING FOREST**
105 **RESTORATION AND WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION GRANT**
106 **PROGRAM BE INCREASED AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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 creates a state

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

grant program to be administered by the Colorado state forest service (forest service) to fund proactive forest management fuels reduction projects to reduce the impacts to life, property, and critical infrastructure caused by wildfires.

To be eligible for a grant award, a grant recipient must be any one of a group of individual landowners as specified in the bill whose real property that is the subject of a grant application is located within a land area that is covered by a community wildfire protection plan.

The bill specifies requirements pertaining to the evaluation of grant proposals. The forest service is to select the proposals that will receive funding, administer the grant program, and develop procedures by which applicants are to apply for grants.

The bill imposes a monetary limit on the amount of a grant to be awarded and also requires a grant applicant to demonstrate an available amount of matching funds to be awarded a grant.

The bill creates the forest management fuels reduction projects grant program cash fund in the state treasury.

The bill requires the forest service to report annually to the general assembly on the number, location, and benefits of all projects for which a grant award is made.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-310, **amend**
3 (8.5)(a); and **add** (1.5)(b)(V) and (8.8) as follows:

4 **23-31-310. Forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation**
5 **grant program - legislative declaration - technical advisory panel -**
6 **definitions - repeal. (1.5) Legislative declaration.** The general
7 assembly hereby:

8 (b) Determines that:

9 (V) GIVEN THE CHALLENGING CONDITIONS OF COLORADO'S
10 FORESTS AND THE IMMINENT RISKS OF CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE, IT IS
11 CRITICAL THAT STATE FUNDING OF THE GRANTS PROGRAM BE INCREASED
12 FOR THE 2019-20 STATE FISCAL YEAR AND THAT GRANT MONEY BE
13 EXPENDED ON AN EXPEDITED BASIS TO THE GREATEST EXTENT
14 PRACTICABLE TO FULFILL THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

1 **(8.5) Forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant**
2 **program cash fund.** (a) There is hereby created in the state treasury the
3 forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program cash fund.
4 The department of higher education shall administer the fund, which
5 consists of:

6 (I) All money transferred by the treasurer as specified in section
7 39-29-109.3 (2)(k) and subsection (8.7) of this section; ~~and~~

8 (II) All money that was in the wildfire risk reduction fund created
9 in section 36-7-405 prior to the repeal of that fund. As soon as possible
10 after December 31, 2017, the state treasurer shall transfer the
11 unencumbered fund balance of the wildfire risk reduction fund as of
12 month-end close on December 31, 2017, to the forest restoration and
13 wildfire risk mitigation grant program cash fund.

14 (III) ANY OTHER MONEY APPROPRIATED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE
15 FUND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

16 (8.8) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT ANY
17 ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE 2019-20 STATE
18 FISCAL YEAR TO THE FUND CREATED IN SUBSECTION (8.5)(a) OF THIS
19 SECTION BE EXPENDED ON GRANTS THAT WILL SUPPORT THE MAXIMUM
20 NUMBER OF EFFECTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS
21 TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS TO LIFE, PROPERTY, AND CRITICAL
22 INFRASTRUCTURE CAUSED BY WILDFIRE.

23 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.3-103, **add** (4)
24 as follows:

25 **23-3.3-103. Annual appropriations.** (4) THE PROVISIONS OF
26 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
27 STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS ARTICLE 3.3 SHALL NOT

1 APPLY TO APPROPRIATIONS MADE TO THE FOREST RESTORATION AND
2 WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM CASH FUND CREATED IN
3 SECTION 23-31-301 (8.5)(a).

4 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2019-20 state fiscal year,
5 \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education for
6 allocation to the board of governors of the Colorado state university
7 system to be deposited into the forest restoration and wildfire risk
8 mitigation grant program cash fund created in section 23-31-310 (8.5),
9 C.R.S., for the use of the forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation
10 grant program created in section 23-31-310, C.R.S. This appropriation is
11 from the general fund.

12 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
13 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
14 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.