INTRODUCED

SENATE BILL 20-018

SENATE SPONSORSHIP
Fenberg and Coram, Ginal, Lee

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP
McCluskie and Snyder, Cutter

Senate Committees
Local Government
Finance

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING PROGRAMS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK THROUGH
OUTREACH TO PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, AND, IN
CONNECTION THEREWITH, 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 requires the division of housing within the department of local affairs (division) to create a working group to identify emerging, promising, and best practices related to homeless outreach for the purpose of reducing wildfire risk in the wildland-urban interface. The bill also establishes the

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.
reducing wildfire risk through homeless outreach grant program within the division. Grant recipients can use grant money to conduct outreach among individuals experiencing homelessness to reduce wildfire risk consistent with the emerging, promising, and best practices the working group identifies. The grant program prioritizes applications that take a collaborative approach and are founded in local knowledge and expertise.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 24-32-726 as follows:


(2) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE DIVISION THE REDUCING WILDFIRE RISK THROUGH HOMELESS OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "GRANT PROGRAM". GRANT RECIPIENTS MAY USE THE MONEY TO CONDUCT OUTREACH AMONG INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
REDDING WILDFIRE RISKS IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE
CONSISTENT WITH THE EMERGING, PROMISING, AND BEST PRACTICES
IDENTIFIED BY THE WORKING GROUP IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION
(1) OF THIS SECTION.

(3) THE DIVISION SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM AND,
SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, SHALL AWARD GRANTS AS
PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION. THE DIVISION SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROGRAM IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. AT A MINIMUM, THE POLICIES AND
PROCEDURES MUST SPECIFY THE TIME FRAMES FOR APPLYING FOR GRANTS,
THE FORM OF THE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION, AND THE PROGRAM
EVALUATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.

(4) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT, AN ENTITY MUST BE AN
AGENCY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, A SPECIAL DISTRICT, A TRIBAL AGENCY
OR PROGRAM, OR A NONPROFIT OR NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT
IS REGISTERED AND IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE COLORADO SECRETARY
OF STATE’S OFFICE. APPLICANTS MUST MEET ANY OTHER CRITERIA
SPECIFIED IN THE DIVISION’S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

(5) (a) THE DIVISION SHALL REVIEW THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. IN AWARDING GRANTS, THE DIVISION SHALL
CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

(I) THE APPLICANT’S DEMONSTRATED ABILITY OR PAST RECORD OF
USING THE EMERGING, PROMISING, AND BEST PRACTICES IDENTIFIED BY
THE WORKING GROUP IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
SECTION;

(II) THE APPLICANT’S LOCAL EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE, AND
CAPACITY IN THE AREA THE APPLICANT PLANS TO SERVE; AND
(III) The applicant’s plan to collaborate with other local organizations, government agencies, and service providers in the area the applicant plans to serve.

(b) The division shall prioritize applications that adopt a collaborative approach founded on local knowledge and expertise.

(6) Subject to available appropriations, on or before November 1 each year of the grant program, the executive director of the department of local affairs shall award grants as provided in this section. Grants are awarded at the sole discretion of the executive director in accordance with this section.

(7) On or before September 1, 2021, and on or before September 1 each year thereafter, the department of local affairs shall submit a report to the wildfire matters review committee, or any successor committee, on the grant program. Notwithstanding section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), the reporting requirement continues until the grant program repeals.

(8) The general assembly shall annually appropriate money from the general fund to the department of local affairs to implement the grant program. The department of local affairs may use up to five percent of the money annually appropriated for the grant program to pay the direct and indirect costs that the division incurs to administer the grant program.

SECTION 2. Appropriation. For the 2020-21 state fiscal year, $100,000 is appropriated to the department of local affairs for use by the
division of housing. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for the reducing wildfire risk through homeless outreach grant program.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.