

First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 21-0836.01 Ed DeCecco x4216

HOUSE BILL 21-1243

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Arndt and Will,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Energy & Environment
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM TO
102 REINTRODUCE AND MANAGE GRAY WOLVES IN THE STATE FROM
103 SOURCES OTHER THAN HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES.

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>.)

At the 2020 general election, the voters approved proposition 114, which requires the reintroduction and management of gray wolves. To fund the program implementation and administration, the bill requires the general assembly to appropriate money to the division of parks and wildlife (division) or otherwise authorize the division's expenditure of

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.

money from one or more of the following funds:

- The general fund;
- The species conservation trust fund;
- The Colorado nongame conservation and wildlife restoration cash fund; or
- The wildlife cash fund; except that any money within the wildlife cash fund that is generated from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses or from associated federal grants is not available for appropriation.

The division is also authorized to solicit, accept, and expend any grants, gifts, sponsorships, contributions, donations, and bequests, including federal funds, for the program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-2-105.8, **amend**
3 (2)(e)(II) and (4)(a); and **add** (4.5) as follows:

4 **33-2-105.8. Reintroduction of gray wolves on designated lands**
5 **west of the continental divide - public input in commission**
6 **development of restoration plan - compensation to owners of**
7 **livestock - definitions.** (2) Notwithstanding any provision of state law
8 to the contrary, including section 33-2-105.5 (2), and in order to restore
9 gray wolves to the state, the commission shall:

10 (e) Oversee gray wolf restoration and management, including the
11 distribution of state funds that are made available to:

12 (II) Pay fair compensation to owners of livestock for any losses
13 of livestock caused by gray wolves, as verified pursuant to the claim
14 procedures authorized by sections 33-3-107 to 33-3-110. ~~and, to the~~
15 ~~extent they are available, from moneys in the wildlife cash fund as~~
16 ~~provided in section 33-3-107 (2.5).~~

17 (4) In furtherance of this section and the expressed intent of
18 voters, the general assembly:

19 (a) Shall make such appropriations as are necessary to fund the

1 programs authorized and obligations IMPOSED BY THIS SECTION, including
2 fair compensation for livestock losses that are authorized by this section;
3 ~~but cannot be paid from moneys in the wildlife cash fund, imposed by this~~
4 ~~section;~~ and

5 (4.5) (a) FOR PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING AND ADMINISTERING
6 THIS SECTION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE MONEY TO
7 THE DIVISION OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION TO EXPEND MONEY
8 FROM ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FUNDS:

9 (I) THE GENERAL FUND;

10 (II) THE SPECIES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND CREATED IN SECTION
11 24-33-111 (2)(a);

12 (III) THE COLORADO NONGAME CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE
13 RESTORATION CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 33-1-125; OR

14 (IV) THE WILDLIFE CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 33-1-112 (1);
15 EXCEPT THAT ANY MONEY WITHIN THE WILDLIFE CASH FUND THAT IS
16 GENERATED FROM THE SALE OF HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES OR FROM
17 ASSOCIATED FEDERAL GRANTS IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION
18 UNDER THIS SECTION.

19 (b) THE LACK OF AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE GENERAL FUND
20 SHALL NOT HALT REINTRODUCTION OF GRAY WOLVES AS REQUIRED UNDER
21 SUBSECTION (2)(d) OF THIS SECTION.

22 (c) THE DIVISION MAY SOLICIT, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND ANY GRANTS,
23 GIFTS, SPONSORSHIPS, CONTRIBUTIONS, DONATIONS, AND BEQUESTS,
24 INCLUDING FEDERAL FUNDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING AND
25 ADMINISTERING THIS SECTION.

26 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,

- 1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.