

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING STATE FUNDING OF FIREFIGHTING AIRCRAFT TO RESPOND TO WILDFIRES.

Prime Sponsors: Sens. Fenberg and Rankin
Reps. McCluskie and Lynch

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Appropriation Items of Note

Appropriation Not Required, No Amendment in Packet

General Fund Impact

Fiscal Impact of Bill as Amended to Date

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 02/22/21.

XXX	No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill
	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>new information or technical issues</i>
	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>amendment adopted</i> after LCS Fiscal Note was prepared
	Non-Concurrence: JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff disagree about the fiscal impact of the bill

The Senate Appropriations Committee Report (02/23/21) includes amendments to the bill, however, Legislative Council Staff and JBC Staff agree that the committee amendments do not change the fiscal impact of the bill.

Technical Note

The bill authorizes the transfer of General Fund to the Colorado Firefighting Air Corps Fund for the anticipated purchase of aviation resources. Because the operation of the purchased aircraft is not included in the purpose of the bill, the fiscal note does not include information concerning the out-year operating costs of those resources.

Amendments in This Packet for Consideration by Appropriations Committee

Amendment	Description
None.	

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill neither requires nor contains an appropriation clause for FY 2020-21.

Points to Consider*General Fund Impact*

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) has proposed a supplemental budget package for FY 2020-21 based on the December 2020 Office of State Planning and Budget revenue forecast. The \$30,800,000 General Fund transfer to the Colorado Firefighting Air Corps Fund in FY 2020-21 included in this bill will reduce by \$30,800,000 the amount of General Fund reserve that is carried forward into FY 2021-22. The JBC has included as part of its FY 2020-21 supplemental budget package the \$30,800,000 General Fund revenue decrease that would result from the passage of this bill.

Future Fiscal Impact

The required transfer of General Fund authorized in this bill is for the anticipated purchase of a Fire Hawk Helicopter, for the lease of a Type 1 helicopter, and for the first year operational costs associated with the use of the leased and purchased aviation resources. The Department of Public Safety anticipates ongoing operational costs for the aircraft to be \$3.8 million annually, beginning in FY 2022-23. As no other funding source is identified for the ongoing operational costs, it is anticipated that the costs will be covered by General Fund. It is assumed that the Department will submit a request for funding for future operating costs in the annual budget process.