



Legislative Council Staff

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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 22-0177	Date:	January 20, 2022
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Lee; Story Rep. Cutter; Snyder	Bill Status:	Senate Local Government
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Bill Topic: INCREASE WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION OUTREACH EFFORTS

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill directs the Colorado State Forest Service to convene a working group and implement an enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaign in 2023 and 2024. The bill increases workload and expenditures for multiple agencies beginning in FY 2022-23.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2022-23, the bill requires an appropriation of \$595,296 to the Colorado State University for use by the State Forest Service.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, which was recommended by the Wildfire Matters Review Committee.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 22-007**

		Budget Year FY 2022-23	Out Year FY 2023-24
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$595,296	\$205,336
	Centrally Appropriated	\$14,123	\$15,756
	Total	\$609,419	\$221,092
	Total FTE	0.9 FTE	1.0 FTE
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	\$89,294	\$30,800

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) at the Colorado State University to convene a working group to consider how best to conduct an enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaign in 2023 and 2024. The campaign is intended to educate and incentivize residents living in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) to engage in wildfire risk mitigation efforts. The working group must include the Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the United States Forest Service (USFS), and may include other entities engaged in wildfire risk mitigation in the WUI.

The CSFS, after considering feedback from the working group, must implement an enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaign in conjunction with the DFPC and the USFS in 2023 and 2024. CSFS may also implement other outreach efforts in FYs 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The CSFS may, subject to available appropriations:

- develop or contract for the development or placement of marketing and education materials;
- conduct or contract for educational events;
- retain consultants for outreach efforts;
- provide web-based educational resources and information; and
- secure staff to implement outreach efforts.

The State Forester is required to report to the Wildfire Matters Review Committee during the 2023 and 2024 legislative interims, including outreach efforts implemented, money expended on outreach efforts, and the impacts of those efforts on increasing awareness of wildfire risk mitigation in the WUI.

Background

The CSFS works to raise awareness of wildfire risk and actions to mitigate those risks among residents living in the WUI, in part through an annual Wildfire Awareness Month. The CSFS does not currently have a budget to implement the Wildfire Awareness Month campaigns, and instead relies upon news releases, social media, public service announcements, and web-based resources. The Governor, through proclamations, has declared May as the annual observance of Wildfire Awareness month to encourage residents to better prepare their homes and communities for wildfires. This bill will use the existing framework of Wildfire Awareness Month in 2023 and 2024 to increase outreach to homeowners and communities.

State Expenditures

The bill increases General Fund expenditures by \$609,419 in FY 2022-23 and \$221,092 in FY 2023-24. Future-year costs for ongoing education and outreach may also be incurred, subject to available appropriations. These costs are shown in Table 2 and described below.

Table 2
Expenditures under SB 22-007

Cost Components	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Department of Higher Education		
Personal Services	\$56,946	\$63,986
Operating Expenses	\$1,350	\$1,350
Capital Outlay Costs	\$7,000	-
Marketing Consultant	\$100,000	-
Outreach Materials	\$350,000	\$110,000
Advertising	\$75,000	\$25,000
Travel	\$5,000	\$5,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$14,123	\$15,756
Total Expenditures	\$609,419	\$221,092
Total FTE	0.9 FTE	1.0 FTE

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Department of Higher Education. The CSFS requires 1.0 FTE to oversee the working group and implement the outreach campaign over a two-year period in FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24. Staffing costs assume a July 1, 2022 start date and standard operating costs, and are prorated for the General Fund payday shift. In addition, the CSFS requires one-time funds of \$100,000 to hire a marketing consultant to develop a marketing plan. Costs also include developing and mailing marketing and education materials (e.g., video, social media, television, radio, and print), purchasing media space, customizing the website, and travel for stakeholder engagement and training. The campaign will be more targeted in the second year, as reflected in the decreased materials and advertising costs. Future-year costs for ongoing outreach are assumed to be subject to available appropriations and that they will be addressed through the annual budget process.

Department of Public Safety. Beginning in FY 2022-23, the Department of Public Safety will have increased workload for staff to participate in the working group. In addition, depending on the outreach strategy devised by the working group and CSFS, the DFPC may be required to play a role in the implementation of the outreach campaign. In such an event, it is assumed that funding will be provided to the DFPC from any funds appropriated to the CSFS (through an intergovernmental agreement or a reappropriation of funds requested through the annual budget process) or that, if needed, additional funding will be requested by the DFPC through the annual or supplemental budget process based on the outreach plan developed.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are included in Table 2 above.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve beginning in FY 2022-23. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by \$89,294 in FY 2022-23 and \$30,800 in FY 2023-24, which will decrease the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Local Government

In FY 2022-23, workload will increase for any local government or special district that participates in the working group. Local governments that participate in the dissemination of outreach materials may have increased workloads and costs.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2022-23, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$595,296 to the Colorado State University for use by the State Forest Service and 0.9 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Forest Service
Counties

Public Safety
Municipalities