

CHAPTER 341

EDUCATION - POSTSECONDARY

HOUSE BILL 22-1012

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Cutter and Valdez D., Lynch, Snyder, Amabile, Bacon, Bennett, Bird, Boesenecker, Caraveo, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Herod, Hooton, Jodeh, Kipp, Lindsay, Lontine, McCluskie, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Ortiz, Ricks, Roberts, Titone, Valdez A., Gonzales-Gutierrez, Weissman;
also SENATOR(S) Ginal and Lee, Story, Buckner, Hansen, Jaquez Lewis, Pettersen, Rankin, Simpson, Winter, Fenberg.

AN ACT**CONCERNING HEALTHY FORESTS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-313, **amend** (10)(a)(I); and **add** (9.6) and (10)(a)(IV) as follows:

23-31-313. Healthy forests - vibrant communities - funds created - repeal. (9.6) **Carbon accounting framework.** (a) ON AND AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, THE STATE FOREST SERVICE SHALL DEVELOP A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE STATEWIDE CARBON ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK THAT YIELDS CARBON STOCK AND FLUX ESTIMATES FOR:

- (I) ECOSYSTEMS BY COUNTY AND FOREST COVER TYPE; AND
- (II) WOOD PRODUCTS.

(b) THE STATE FOREST SERVICE SHALL ALSO DEVELOP A FOREST CARBON CO-BENEFIT FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT-LEVEL FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, INCLUDING WILDFIRE MITIGATION. THE STATE FOREST SERVICE SHALL USE THIS FRAMEWORK TO TRAIN PRACTITIONERS IN ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO BE INCORPORATED INTO CURRENT FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, INCLUDING WILDFIRE MITIGATION. THE STATE FOREST SERVICE SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO ASSIST INDUSTRY AND LANDOWNERS WITH CARBON INVENTORIES AND MONITORING.

- (c) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (9.6), UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

REQUIRES:

(I) "CARBON ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK" MEANS A MODEL THAT USES DATA FROM THE FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S FOREST SERVICE TO DEVELOP TABULAR DATA OF CARBON FLUX AND STOCK ESTIMATES FOR ALL FOREST TYPES AND WOOD PRODUCTS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO.

(II) "FOREST CARBON CO-BENEFIT FRAMEWORK" MEANS A FRAMEWORK THAT LINKS GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND APPROACHES IN THE 2020 COLORADO FOREST ACTION PLAN TO FOREST MANAGEMENT AND WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION PRACTICES THAT SERVE TO IMPROVE CARBON SEQUESTRATION.

(10) **Healthy forests and vibrant communities fund.** (a) (I) There is hereby created in the state treasury the healthy forests and vibrant communities fund. The fund consists of all money that may be appropriated OR TRANSFERRED thereto by the general assembly and all private and public money received through gifts, grants, reimbursements, or donations that are transmitted to the state treasurer and credited to the fund. All interest earned from the investment of money in the fund is credited to the fund. The money in the fund is hereby continuously appropriated for the purposes specified in this subsection ~~(10)~~ SECTION and remains available until expended. Any money not expended at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and shall not be transferred to or revert to the general fund.

(IV) (A) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER THREE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE HEALTHY FORESTS AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES FUND.

(B) THIS SUBSECTION (10)(a)(IV) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-310, **add** (8.7)(c) as follows:

23-31-310. Forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program - technical advisory panel - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal. (8.7) (c) (I) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FOREST RESTORATION AND WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM CASH FUND.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (8.7) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33-117, **add** (5.5) as follows:

24-33-117. Wildfire mitigation capacity development fund - established - financing - legislative intent - repeal. (5.5) (a) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER TWO MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE WILDFIRE MITIGATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FUND.

(b) THIS SUBSECTION (5.5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023.

SECTION 4. Appropriation. For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$95,407 is

appropriated to the healthy forests and vibrant communities fund created in section 23-31-313 (10)(a)(I), C.R.S. This appropriation is from the general fund. The department of higher education is responsible for the accounting related to this appropriation.

SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: June 3, 2022