First Regular Session Seventy-fifth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted on Second Reading in the House of Introduction HOUSE BILL 25-1053

LLS NO. 25-0182.01 Rebecca Bayetti x4348

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Mauro and Weinberg, Boesenecker, Velasco

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman and Baisley, Cutter

House Committees Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources **Senate Committees**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

- 101 CONCERNING LIMITED IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL LIABILITY FOR
 102 LANDOWNERS WHO ALLOW ACCESS TO THEIR PROPERTY FOR
- 103 ENTRY AND EXIT IN CONNECTION WITH AN EMERGENCY.

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 <u>http://leg.colorado.gov/.</u>)

Wildfire Matters Review Committee. The bill provides immunity from civil liability for damage or injury to persons or property, other than that which arises from gross negligence or willful misconduct, to a landowner who allows access to the landowner's property for entry and exit in connection with an emergency.



1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado: 2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 13-21-108.9 as 3 follows: 4 13-21-108.9. Landowner allowing access to property during 5 emergency - limited immunity - definitions. (1) As USED IN THIS 6 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES: 7 (a) "EMERGENCY" MEANS: 8 (I) A FIRE, RESCUE CALL, OR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT; 9 (II) A NATURAL OR HUMAN-CAUSED DISASTER SUCH AS AN 10 EARTHQUAKE, WILDFIRE, FLOOD, OR SEVERE WEATHER EVENT; OR 11 (III) AN INCIDENT REASONABLY DETERMINED TO BE AN 12 EMERGENCY BY A FIRST RESPONDER. 13 (b) "FIRST RESPONDER" MEANS: 14 (I) A PEACE OFFICER, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 16-2.5-101; 15 (II) A FIREFIGHTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 29-5-203 (10); 16 A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION (III) 17 31-30-1102 (9)(a); 18 (IV) AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER, AS DEFINED IN 19 SECTION 25-3.5-103 (8); OR 20 (V) ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO RESPONDS IN A PROFESSIONAL 21 CAPACITY TO AN INCIDENT THAT THREATENS PUBLIC SAFETY. 22 (c) "LANDOWNER" HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 23 13-21-115 (7)(b). 24 (2) (a) A LANDOWNER WHO, IN GOOD FAITH AND WITHOUT 25 COMPENSATION, ALLOWS ACCESS TO THE LANDOWNER'S PROPERTY FOR 26 ENTRY AND EXIT IN CONNECTION WITH AN EMERGENCY IS IMMUNE FROM

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CIVIL LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE OR INJURY TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY AS A
 RESULT OF ALLOWING SUCH ACCESS. THIS IMMUNITY DOES NOT APPLY TO
 ACTS OR OMISSIONS THAT ARE GROSSLY NEGLIGENT OR WILLFUL AND
 WANTON.

5 (b) THE ACT OF ALLOWING ACCESS TO A LANDOWNER'S PROPERTY 6 FOR ENTRY AND EXIT IN CONNECTION WITH AN EMERGENCY IS NOT A 7 GUARANTEE THAT THE PROPERTY IS MAINTAINED OR IN A PASSABLE 8 CONDITION.

9 (3) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION:

10 (a) ABROGATES OR LIMITS THE SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY GRANTED TO
11 PUBLIC ENTITIES PURSUANT TO THE "COLORADO GOVERNMENTAL
12 IMMUNITY ACT", ARTICLE 10 OF TITLE 24;

13 (b) REQUIRES OR IMPOSES A DUTY ON A LANDOWNER TO MAINTAIN
14 THE LANDOWNER'S PROPERTY IN A SPECIFIC CONDITION;

15 (c) AUTHORIZES TRESPASS ONTO PRIVATE PROPERTY; OR

16 (d) PRECLUDES A LANDOWNER FROM NEGOTIATING ADDITIONAL

17 AGREEMENTS GOVERNING ACCESS TO THE LANDOWNER'S PROPERTY.

18 SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date -19 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following 20 the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the 21 general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant 22 to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an 23 item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, 24 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the 25 general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take 26 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the 27 governor.

(2) This act applies to access to property granted on or after the
 applicable effective date of this act.