

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
9/6/24

BILL 1

LLS NO. 25-0181.01 Caroline Martin x5902

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Wildfire Matters Review Committee

BILL TOPIC: Applying Artificial Intelligence to Fight Wildfire

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO**
102 **PREDICT, PREVENT, OR ASSIST IN FIGHTING WILDFIRES, AND, IN**
103 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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/>.)

Wildfire Matters Review Committee. The bill requires the general assembly to appropriate \$7,500,000 to the division of fire prevention and control (division) for state fiscal year 2024-25 and allows any unexpended portion of the appropriation to also be expended in state fiscal year 2025-26. The division is required to use the money to study

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

and develop applications of artificial intelligence that predict, mitigate, or assist in fighting wildfires, including, at a minimum, applications of artificial intelligence which produce data that can be incorporated into maps displaying the following:

- Classification of vegetation and wildfire fuel;
- Predictions regarding the likelihood of wildfire ignition potential in a particular area following observed lightning events;
- The perimeter of an ongoing wildfire; and
- Predictions regarding the locations and area to which an ongoing wildfire may spread.

The division may contract with a third party that has developed artificial intelligence tools to predict, mitigate, or assist in fighting wildfires. The division is also authorized to seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of the bill.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33.5-1241 as
3 follows:

4 **24-33.5-1241. Applying artificial intelligence to predict,**
5 **prevent, or assist in fighting wildfires - definition.** (1) AS USED IN THIS
6 SECTION, "ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET
7 FORTH IN SECTION 2-3-1701 (1).

8 (2) FOR THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE SEVEN MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND
10 DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DIVISION TO BE USED IN
11 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED OR UNENCUMBERED
12 MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) REMAINS
13 AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE FOR THE SAME PURPOSES IN THE 2025-26
14 STATE FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION.

15 (3) THE DIVISION SHALL USE THE MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT
16 TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION TO STUDY AND DEVELOP
17 APPLICATIONS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT PREDICT, MITIGATE, OR

1 ASSIST IN FIGHTING WILDFIRES, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM, APPLICATIONS
2 OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WHICH PRODUCE DATA THAT CAN BE
3 INCORPORATED INTO MAPS DISPLAYING THE FOLLOWING:

- 4 (a) CLASSIFICATION OF VEGETATION AND WILDFIRE FUEL;
- 5 (b) PREDICTIONS REGARDING WILDFIRE IGNITION POTENTIAL IN A
6 PARTICULAR AREA FOLLOWING OBSERVED LIGHTNING EVENTS;
- 7 (c) THE PERIMETER OF AN ONGOING WILDFIRE; AND
- 8 (d) PREDICTIONS REGARDING THE LOCATIONS AND AREA TO WHICH
9 AN ONGOING WILDFIRE MAY SPREAD.

10 (4) IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES OUTLINED IN
11 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, THE DIVISION MAY CONTRACT WITH A
12 THIRD PARTY THAT, AT THE TIME OF CONTRACTING, HAS DEVELOPED
13 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS TO PREDICT, MITIGATE, OR ASSIST IN
14 FIGHTING WILDFIRES.

15 (5) THE DIVISION MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS,
16 AND DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF
17 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

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