

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
9/29/23

Bill 5

LLS NO. 24-0423.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Wildfire Matters Review Committee

BILL TOPIC: Assist Rural Community Wildfire-related Grant App

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES TO APPLY FOR**
102 **WILDFIRE-RELATED GRANT MONEY.**

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 directs the rural opportunity office (office) in the Colorado office of economic development to assist rural communities with identifying and applying for state or federal grants for wildfire mitigation, prevention, response, or risk management efforts (wildfire-related grants).

On or before July 1, 2025, and on or before July 1 of every odd

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

year thereafter, the office is required to prepare a report summarizing its work to assist rural communities with identifying and applying for wildfire-related grants. The report must include information about the rural communities that the office assists and the grants awarded to rural communities that the office assists. The office is required to submit the report to the wildfire matters review committee or, if the committee no longer exists, to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over natural resources matters.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-48.5-133, **amend**
3 (3)(c) and (3)(d); and **add** (3)(e) and (4) as follows:

4 **24-48.5-133. Rural opportunity office - creation - duties -**
5 **wildfire-related grants - technical assistance - legislative declaration**
6 **- definition.** (3) The rural opportunity office shall:

7 (c) Make recommendations that inform the governor's policy on
8 rural economic development matters, including policy on economic
9 development issues unique to rural communities; ~~and~~

10 (d) Measure the success of program outreach and conduct research
11 to determine whether Colorado's rural communities receive more
12 statewide funding as a result of the efforts of the rural opportunity office;
13 AND

14 (e) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION,
15 PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES TO IDENTIFY
16 AND APPLY FOR GRANT MONEY MADE AVAILABLE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES
17 FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION, PREVENTION, RESPONSE, OR RISK
18 MANAGEMENT EFFORTS.

19 (4) (a) THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE SHALL:

20 (I) IDENTIFY, MAINTAIN, PERIODICALLY UPDATE, AND PUBLISH ON
21 ITS PUBLIC WEBSITE A LIST OF STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS

1 AWARDING GRANT MONEY TO RURAL COMMUNITIES FOR
2 WILDFIRE-RELATED GRANTS; AND

3 (II) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES TO:

4 (A) IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE WILDFIRE-RELATED GRANTS FOR
5 WHICH TO APPLY; AND

6 (B) APPLY FOR WILDFIRE-RELATED GRANTS.

7 (b) (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, AND ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 OF
8 EACH ODD YEAR THEREAFTER, THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE SHALL
9 PREPARE A REPORT SUMMARIZING ITS WORK TO ASSIST RURAL
10 COMMUNITIES WITH IDENTIFYING AND APPLYING FOR WILDFIRE-RELATED
11 GRANTS. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

12 (A) THE RURAL COMMUNITIES THAT THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY
13 OFFICE ASSISTED;

14 (B) THE RURAL COMMUNITIES THAT THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY
15 OFFICE ASSISTED THAT WERE AWARDED GRANTS; AND

16 (C) OF THE RURAL COMMUNITIES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION
17 (4)(b)(I)(B) OF THIS SECTION, HOW MUCH GRANT MONEY WAS AWARDED
18 TO EACH RURAL COMMUNITY THAT THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE
19 ASSISTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4).

20 (II) (A) THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT THE
21 MOST RECENT REPORT TO THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE
22 CREATED IN SECTION 2-3-1602 (1)(a) OR, IF THE COMMITTEE NO LONGER
23 EXISTS, TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND
24 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND
25 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.
26 THE RURAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE SHALL POST EACH REPORT ON ITS PUBLIC
27 WEBSITE.

1 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE
2 REPORTING REQUIREMENT SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (4)(b)(II)(A) OF THIS
3 SECTION CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

4 (c) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "WILDFIRE-RELATED GRANT" MEANS
5 A FEDERAL OR STATE GRANT MADE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES,
6 INCLUDING RURAL COMMUNITIES, WITH DESIGNING, DEVELOPING, OR
7 OPERATING A WILDFIRE MITIGATION, PREVENTION, RESPONSE, OR RISK
8 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY, INCLUDING ANY EDUCATION AND
9 OUTREACH EFFORTS.

10 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
11 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
12 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
13 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
14 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
15 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
16 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
17 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
18 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.