

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT  
10/10/23

Bill 9

LLS NO. 24-0427.01 Brita Darling x2241

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Wildfire Matters Review Committee

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**BILL TOPIC:** Extend Outreach Campaigns Wildfire Risk Mitigation

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS**  
102            **RELATING TO WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION IN THE**  
103            **WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE, AND, IN CONNECTION**  
104            **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**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 Colorado state forest service (forest service) to conduct enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaigns (campaigns) through 2027 and

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

other outreach efforts through the 2026-27 state fiscal year that are expected to increase awareness of wildfire risk mitigation by residents in the wildland-urban interface.

For state fiscal year 2024-25, the bill appropriates \$300,000 from the general fund to the healthy forests and vibrant communities fund for use by the forest service for the ongoing campaigns and outreach efforts.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-313, **amend**  
3 (9.5)(c) and (9.5)(e)(I); and **add** (9.5)(f) as follows:

4 **23-31-313. Healthy forests - vibrant communities - funds**  
5 **created - outreach working group - legislative declaration - definition**  
6 **- repeal. (9.5) Wildfire risk mitigation public outreach and**  
7 **educational campaign - legislative declaration - appropriation.**

8 (c) After considering feedback from the working group, and subject to  
9 available appropriations, the forest service:

10 (I) Shall implement an enhanced wildfire awareness month  
11 outreach campaign in conjunction with the division of fire prevention and  
12 control in the department of public safety and the United States forest  
13 service in 2023 and 2024, and, ~~subject to available appropriations, may~~  
14 ~~implement enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaigns in~~  
15 ~~subsequent years~~ THROUGH 2027; and

16 (II) ~~May~~ SHALL implement other outreach efforts during the  
17 2022-23 and ~~2023-24~~ THROUGH 2026-27 state fiscal years and ~~subsequent~~  
18 ~~state fiscal years~~ that are expected to increase awareness of wildfire risk  
19 mitigation by residents in the wildland-urban interface.

20 (e) (I) During the 2023 and ~~2024~~ THROUGH THE 2027 legislative  
21 interims, the state forester shall submit a report to the wildfire matters  
22 review committee created in section 2-3-1602 concerning outreach efforts

1 implemented pursuant to this subsection (9.5), OR, IF THE WILDFIRE  
2 MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE IS REPEALED, TO THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
4 COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL RESOURCES  
5 COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

6 (f) (I) FOR PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING ONGOING WILDFIRE  
7 AWARENESS MONTH OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS AND OTHER OUTREACH  
8 EFFORTS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9.5)(c) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
9 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND  
10 DOLLARS TO THE HEALTHY FORESTS AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES FUND  
11 CREATED IN SUBSECTION (10) OF THIS SECTION.

12 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (9.5)(f) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
13 2028.

14 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year,  
15 \$300,000 is appropriated to the healthy forests and vibrant communities  
16 fund created in section 23-31-313 (10), C.R.S. This appropriation is from  
17 the general fund. The department of higher education is responsible for  
18 the accounting related to this appropriation.

19 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
20 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.