

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

BILL A

LLS NO. 23-0139.01 Brita Darling x2241

SENATE BILL

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Jaquez Lewis, Ginal, Simpson, Story, Danielson

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Cutter and Will, Lynch, Snyder

Senate Committees

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO EXPAND THE FORESTRY WORKFORCE, AND,**
102 **IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DIRECTING THE COLORADO STATE**
103 **FOREST SERVICE TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR**
104 **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN**
105 **FORESTRY AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION; CREATING A TIMBER,**
106 **FOREST HEALTH, AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION INDUSTRIES**
107 **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO HELP FUND**
108 **INTERNSHIPS IN THOSE INDUSTRIES; ALLOCATING GENERAL**
109 **FUND MONEY TO THE WILDFIRE MITIGATION CAPACITY**
110 **DEVELOPMENT FUND; AUTHORIZING THE EXPANSION AND**
111 **CREATION OF FORESTRY PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY**
112 **COLLEGE SYSTEM AND AT COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE; AND**
113 **DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND**

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

101 OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION TO ADMINISTER A PROGRAM TO
102 RECRUIT WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION
103 EDUCATORS.

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. Section 1 of the bill directs the Colorado state forest service (state forest service) to consult with other entities to develop educational materials relating to career opportunities in forestry and wildfire mitigation for distribution to high school guidance counselors to provide to high school students.

Section 2 creates the timber, forest health, and wildfire mitigation industries workforce development program (development program) in the state forest service. The development program provides partial reimbursement to timber businesses and forest health or wildfire mitigation entities for the costs of hiring interns.

Section 3 requires the state treasurer, on June 30, 2023, and on June 30 each year thereafter, to transfer \$1 million from the general fund to the wildfire mitigation capacity development fund for allowable uses of the fund.

Sections 4, 5, and 6 authorize the expansion of existing forestry programs, including wildfire mitigation, and the creation of a new forestry program within the community college system and at Colorado mountain college (forestry programs). The bill provides for the acquisition of a harvesting simulator to train students, which may be shared among the forestry programs. The bill includes funding for the forestry programs within the community college system and at Colorado mountain college through limited purpose fee-for-service contracts and grants.

Section 7 directs the state board for community colleges and occupational education (board) to administer the recruitment of wildland fire prevention and mitigation educators program (recruiting program) to increase the number of qualified educators at community colleges, area technical colleges, and local district colleges that deliver a wildfire prevention and mitigation program or course. The bill appropriates \$250,000 from the general fund for the 2023-24 and for the 2024-25 state fiscal years for the recruiting program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-313, **add** (9.2)
3 as follows:

4 **23-31-313. Healthy forests - vibrant communities - funds**
5 **created - outreach working group - legislative declaration -**
6 **definitions - repeal.** (9.2) **Outreach to high school students.** THE
7 FOREST SERVICE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
8 RESOURCES, THE DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN THE
9 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TIMBER INDUSTRY
10 REPRESENTATIVES, SHALL DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS RELATING
11 TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN FORESTRY AND WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION
12 TO DISTRIBUTE TO HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS TO PROVIDE TO
13 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

14 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-31-320 as
15 follows:

16 **23-31-320. Timber, forest health, and wildfire mitigation**
17 **industries workforce development program - creation - policies and**
18 **procedures - legislative declaration - definitions.** (1) THE GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY FINDS, DETERMINES, AND DECLARES THAT:

20 (a) FINDING QUALIFIED AND TRAINED EMPLOYEES IS A SIGNIFICANT
21 CHALLENGE FOR THE STATE'S TIMBER, FOREST HEALTH, AND WILDFIRE
22 MITIGATION INDUSTRIES, AND IT IS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE
23 TRAINING TO AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNGER
24 WORKERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BEGINNING CAREERS IN THE TIMBER,
25 FOREST HEALTH, AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION INDUSTRIES;

26 (b) THE BARRIERS TO ENTRY FOR YOUNGER WORKERS WHO ARE

1 INTERESTED IN BEGINNING A CAREER IN THE TIMBER, FOREST HEALTH, AND
2 WILDFIRE MITIGATION INDUSTRIES ARE SIGNIFICANT, INCLUDING ACCESS
3 TO TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE REAL-WORLD WORK EXPERIENCE;

4 (c) INTERNSHIPS ARE A RECOGNIZED WAY TO BUILD A TALENT
5 PIPELINE AND CAREER PATHWAY TO ALIGN EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND
6 WORK-BASED LEARNING; AND

7 (d) BY OFFERING INCENTIVES TO TIMBER BUSINESSES AND FOREST
8 HEALTH AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITIES TO CREATE INTERNSHIPS,
9 THERE WILL BE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO OBTAIN WORK
10 EXPERIENCE WITH TIMBER BUSINESSES OR WITH FOREST HEALTH OR
11 WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITIES.

12 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

13 (a) "FOREST HEALTH OR WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITY" MEANS A
14 FOR-PROFIT OR NONPROFIT ENTITY LOCATED OR OPERATING IN COLORADO
15 THAT ENGAGES IN OR FOCUSES RESOURCES ON FOREST HEALTH OR
16 WILDFIRE MITIGATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING PRESCRIBED BURNING AS
17 DEFINED IN SECTION 24-33.5-202, OR OTHER SCIENCE-BASED FOREST
18 MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

19 (b) "FOREST SERVICE" MEANS THE COLORADO STATE FOREST
20 SERVICE IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 23-31-302 AND THE DIVISION OF
21 FORESTRY CREATED IN SECTION 24-33-104.

22 (c) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE TIMBER, FOREST HEALTH, AND
23 WILDFIRE MITIGATION INDUSTRIES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
24 CREATED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

25 (d) "TIMBER BUSINESS" MEANS A FOR-PROFIT BUSINESS ENTITY
26 INCORPORATED OR LOCATED IN COLORADO THAT ENGAGES IN OR FOCUSES
27 RESOURCES ON FORESTRY; LOGGING; THE TIMBER TRADE; OR THE

1 PRODUCTION OF WOOD PRODUCTS, SUCH AS FURNITURE OR SECONDARY
2 PRODUCTS, INCLUDING WOOD PULP FOR THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY.

3 (3) THE TIMBER, FOREST HEALTH, AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION
4 INDUSTRIES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IS HEREBY CREATED IN
5 THE FOREST SERVICE TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO TIMBER BUSINESSES AND
6 FOREST HEALTH OR WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITIES TO HIRE INTERNS
7 THROUGH PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT OF THE COSTS TO SUCH BUSINESSES
8 AND ENTITIES FOR HIRING AND EMPLOYING INTERNS. NOT LATER THAN
9 JANUARY 1, 2024, THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL ADOPT POLICIES AND
10 PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM. THE POLICIES AND
11 PROCEDURES MUST SPECIFY, AT A MINIMUM:

12 (a) THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTING A TIMBER BUSINESS OR FOREST
13 HEALTH OR WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
14 PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE ABILITY OF THE BUSINESS OR ENTITY TO
15 EFFECTIVELY SUPERVISE AN INTERN AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN
16 INTERN TO GAIN MEANINGFUL WORK EXPERIENCE;

17 (b) THE CRITERIA FOR AN INTERNSHIP TO QUALIFY UNDER THE
18 PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

19 (I) THAT THE INTERNSHIP MUST PROVIDE AN INTERN AT LEAST ONE
20 HUNDRED THIRTY HOURS OF WORK EXPERIENCE; AND

21 (II) THAT THE INTERNSHIP CANNOT EXCEED SIX MONTHS IN
22 DURATION PER INTERN;

23 (c) BEST PRACTICES FOR A TIMBER BUSINESS OR FOREST HEALTH
24 OR WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITY TO USE IN RECRUITING AND SELECTING
25 INTERNS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNSHIPS WHO REPRESENT HISTORICALLY
26 UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES IN THE TIMBER, FOREST HEALTH, AND
27 WILDFIRE MITIGATION INDUSTRIES. IN DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICES, THE

1 FOREST SERVICE SHALL SPECIFICALLY CONSIDER HOW TO EXTEND
2 OPPORTUNITIES TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ACQUIRED EXPERIENCE IN
3 WILDLAND FIRE SERVICES THROUGH THE INMATE DISASTER RELIEF
4 PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 17-24-124 (3).

5 (d) THE CRITERIA FOR A TIMBER BUSINESS OR FOREST HEALTH OR
6 WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITY TO USE IN SELECTING INTERNS TO
7 PARTICIPATE IN ITS INTERNSHIP, INCLUDING THE EDUCATIONAL
8 EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OF AN INTERN AND THE ABILITY OF THE INTERN TO
9 PERFORM MEANINGFUL WORK FOR THE BUSINESS OR ENTITY;

10 (e) THE PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR SELECTING TIMBER
11 BUSINESSES AND FOREST HEALTH OR WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITIES TO
12 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND FOR PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES AND
13 ENTITIES TO SELECT INTERNS TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR INTERNSHIPS;

14 (f) THE ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRACKING INTERNSHIP
15 COSTS; AND

16 (g) THE PROCESS A TIMBER BUSINESS OR FOREST HEALTH OR
17 WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITY MUST USE WHEN APPLYING TO THE
18 PROGRAM FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR A PORTION OF ITS COSTS INCURRED IN
19 EMPLOYING AN INTERN.

20 (4) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE FOREST SERVICE
21 MAY REIMBURSE A PARTICIPATING TIMBER BUSINESS OR FOREST HEALTH
22 OR WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITY AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY
23 PERCENT OF THE ACTUAL COST TO THE BUSINESS OR ENTITY TO EMPLOY AN
24 INTERN. THE ACTUAL COST INCLUDES THE WAGES PAID TO THE INTERN, A
25 REASONABLE ALLOCATION OF FIXED OVERHEAD EXPENSES, AND ALL
26 INCIDENTAL COSTS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE INTERNSHIP. BASED ON THE
27 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROGRAM, THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL

1 DETERMINE HOW MANY INTERNSHIPS MAY BE APPROVED, THE AMOUNT OF
2 REIMBURSEMENT PER INTERNSHIP, AND WHETHER A TIMBER BUSINESS OR
3 FOREST HEALTH OR WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITY MAY BE REIMBURSED
4 FOR MORE THAN ONE INTERN IN A SINGLE STATE FISCAL YEAR. HOWEVER,
5 A TIMBER BUSINESS OR FOREST HEALTH OR WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITY
6 SHALL NOT BE REIMBURSED FOR MORE THAN THREE INTERNSHIPS IN A
7 SINGLE STATE FISCAL YEAR.

8 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33-117, **add** (6.2)
9 as follows:

10 **24-33-117. Wildfire mitigation capacity development fund -**
11 **established - financing - legislative intent - repeal.** (6.2) ON JUNE 30,
12 2023, AND ON JUNE 30 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE STATE TREASURER
13 SHALL TRANSFER ONE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE
14 WILDFIRE MITIGATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FUND. THE MONEY
15 TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (6.2) MUST BE USED FOR
16 PURPOSES SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

17 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-18-308, **amend**
18 (2); and **add** (1)(k) and (1.5) as follows:

19 **23-18-308. Fee-for-service contracts - grants to local district**
20 **colleges - limited purpose - repeal.** (1) Subject to available
21 appropriations, the department shall enter into fee-for-service contracts
22 for the following purposes:

23 (k) (I) THE EXPANSION AND CREATION OF FORESTRY PROGRAMS,
24 INCLUDING WILDFIRE MITIGATION, WITHIN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
25 SYSTEM PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-60-111.

26 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(k) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

27 (1.5) (a) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE

1 DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE GRANTS FOR THE CREATION OF A FORESTRY
2 PROGRAM, INCLUDING WILDFIRE MITIGATION, AT A LOCAL DISTRICT
3 COLLEGE PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-71-209.

4 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (1.5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

5 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of this part 3 to the contrary,
6 the amount of a fee-for-service contract ~~entered into~~ OR GRANT pursuant
7 to this section is not included in the calculation of "total state
8 appropriation" or "total governing board appropriation" made pursuant to
9 this part 3.

10 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-60-111 as
11 follows:

12 **23-60-111. Expansion of forestry and wildfire mitigation**
13 **degree and certificate programs - simulator - legislative declaration**
14 **- definitions - repeal.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

15 (I) COLORADO COMMUNITIES AND FORESTS HAVE SUFFERED
16 SIGNIFICANT LOSSES DUE TO THE INCREASING NUMBER AND SEVERITY OF
17 WILDFIRE EVENTS; AND

18 (II) COLORADO LACKS SUFFICIENT DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE
19 PROGRAMS IN FORESTRY, INCLUDING WILDFIRE MITIGATION, WITHIN THE
20 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TO MEET THE SIGNIFICANT WORKFORCE
21 NEEDS OF THE STATE.

22 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT
23 ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM IS
24 NECESSARY TO EXPAND EXISTING PROGRAMS AND CREATE ADDITIONAL
25 DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS ACROSS THE STATE IN FORESTRY,
26 INCLUDING WILDFIRE MITIGATION, TO PROVIDE A VITAL WORKFORCE FOR
27 COLORADO AND TO KEEP THE STATE'S FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES

1 HEALTHY AND SAFE.

2 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
3 REQUIRES:

4 (a) "FORESTRY PROGRAM" MEANS A DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE
5 PROGRAM IN FOREST HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING WILDFIRE
6 MITIGATION.

7 (b) "SIMULATOR" MEANS A HARVESTING SIMULATOR USED TO
8 TRAIN STUDENTS IN OPERATIONS RELATING TO FOREST MANAGEMENT.

9 (3) (a) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE BOARD MAY
10 APPROVE THE EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING FORESTRY PROGRAM AND THE
11 CREATION OF A NEW FORESTRY PROGRAM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY
12 COLLEGE SYSTEM. THE INITIAL COST FOR THE CREATION AND EXPANSION
13 OF FORESTRY PROGRAMS MAY BE FUNDED THROUGH A FEE-FOR-SERVICE
14 CONTRACT PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-18-308 (1)(k). THE DEPARTMENT
15 MAY USE MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE 2023-24 AND 2024-25 STATE
16 FISCAL YEARS FOR THE FEE-FOR-SERVICE CONTRACTS PURSUANT TO THIS
17 SECTION.

18 (b) THE FEE-FOR-SERVICE CONTRACT MAY BE USED FOR:

19 (I) PROGRAM DESIGN AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES NECESSARY
20 TO EXPAND OR CREATE THE FORESTRY PROGRAMS;

21 (II) THE ACQUISITION OF A SIMULATOR FOR THE FORESTRY
22 PROGRAM ONCE THE PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED, WHICH MAY BE SHARED
23 WITH OTHER COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE
24 FORESTRY PROGRAMS; AND

25 (III) ANY OTHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPANDING EXISTING
26 FORESTRY PROGRAMS OR CREATING A NEW FORESTRY PROGRAM.

27 (4) IF MORE THAN ONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE WISHES TO CREATE

1 A NEW FORESTRY PROGRAM, THE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE LOCATION
2 OF THE PROGRAM. IN ADDITION TO OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS, THE BOARD
3 SHALL CONSIDER:

4 (a) THE DISTRIBUTION OF FORESTRY PROGRAMS ACROSS THE
5 STATE;

6 (b) THE NEED FOR A FORESTRY WORKFORCE IN THE SURROUNDING
7 COMMUNITY OR REGION OF THE STATE;

8 (c) THE PROJECTED STUDENT INTEREST IN THE FORESTRY PROGRAM
9 AT THE COMPETING LOCATIONS; AND

10 (d) THE LOCATION OF A NEW FORESTRY PROGRAM AT COLORADO
11 MOUNTAIN COLLEGE.

12 (5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

13 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-71-209 as
14 follows:

15 **23-71-209. Colorado mountain college - forestry and wildfire**
16 **mitigation degree and certificate program - simulator - legislative**
17 **declaration - definitions - repeal.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS

18 THAT:

19 (I) COLORADO COMMUNITIES AND FORESTS HAVE SUFFERED
20 SIGNIFICANT LOSSES DUE TO THE INCREASING NUMBER AND SEVERITY OF
21 WILDFIRE EVENTS; AND

22 (II) COLORADO LACKS SUFFICIENT DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE
23 PROGRAMS IN FORESTRY, INCLUDING WILDFIRE MITIGATION, TO MEET THE
24 SIGNIFICANT WORKFORCE NEEDS OF THE STATE.

25 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT
26 ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION IS NECESSARY TO CREATE
27 ADDITIONAL DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS ACROSS THE STATE IN

1 FORESTRY, INCLUDING WILDFIRE MITIGATION, TO PROVIDE A VITAL
2 WORKFORCE FOR COLORADO AND TO KEEP THE STATE'S FORESTS AND
3 COMMUNITIES HEALTHY AND SAFE.

4 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
5 REQUIRES:

6 (a) "FORESTRY PROGRAM" MEANS A DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE
7 PROGRAM IN FOREST HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING WILDFIRE
8 MITIGATION.

9 (b) "SIMULATOR" MEANS A HARVESTING SIMULATOR USED TO
10 TRAIN STUDENTS IN OPERATIONS RELATING TO FOREST MANAGEMENT.

11 (3) (a) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, COLORADO
12 MOUNTAIN COLLEGE MAY CREATE A NEW FORESTRY PROGRAM.

13 (b) THE INITIAL COSTS FOR THE NEW FORESTRY PROGRAM MAY BE
14 FUNDED THROUGH A GRANT PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-18-308 (1.5). THE
15 DEPARTMENT MAY USE MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE 2023-24 AND
16 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEARS FOR THE GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS
17 SECTION.

18 (c) THE GRANT MAY BE USED FOR:

19 (I) PROGRAM DESIGN AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES NECESSARY
20 TO CREATE THE FORESTRY PROGRAM;

21 (II) ONCE THE PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED, THE ACQUISITION OF A
22 SIMULATOR FOR THE FORESTRY PROGRAM, WHICH MAY BE SHARED WITH
23 COMMUNITY COLLEGE FORESTRY PROGRAMS; EXCEPT THAT COLORADO
24 MOUNTAIN COLLEGE SHALL NOT ACQUIRE A SIMULATOR IF A NEW
25 SIMULATOR HAS ALREADY BEEN ACQUIRED BY THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
26 SYSTEM PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-60-111; AND

27 (III) ANY OTHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CREATING THE NEW

1 FORESTRY PROGRAM.

2 (4) IN DETERMINING THE LOCATION OF THE NEW FORESTRY
3 PROGRAM, COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE SHALL CONSIDER, IN ADDITION
4 TO OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS:

5 (a) THE DISTRIBUTION OF FORESTRY PROGRAMS ACROSS THE
6 STATE;

7 (b) THE NEED FOR A FORESTRY WORKFORCE IN THE SURROUNDING
8 COMMUNITY OR REGION OF THE STATE;

9 (c) THE PROJECTED STUDENT INTEREST IN THE FORESTRY PROGRAM
10 AT THE PROPOSED LOCATION; AND

11 (d) THE LOCATION OF A NEW FORESTRY PROGRAM IN THE
12 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM.

13 (5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

14 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 81 to title
15 23 as follows:

16 **ARTICLE 81**

17 **Wildland Fire Prevention and Mitigation Educators**

18 **23-81-101. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE 81, UNLESS THE
19 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

20 (1) "AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN
21 SECTION 23-60-103 (1).

22 (2) "BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY
23 COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION
24 23-60-104.

25 (3) "COMMITTEE" MEANS THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW
26 COMMITTEE CREATED IN SECTION 2-3-1602, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
27 COMMITTEE.

1 (4) "COMMUNITY COLLEGE" MEANS A COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-60-205 THAT IS GOVERNED BY THE BOARD.

3 (5) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
4 EDUCATION.

5 (6) "INSTITUTION" MEANS A COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AREA
6 TECHNICAL COLLEGE, OR LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE.

7 (7) "LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN
8 SECTION 23-71-102 (1).

9 (8) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE RECRUITMENT OF WILDLAND FIRE
10 PREVENTION AND MITIGATION EDUCATORS PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN
11 SECTION 23-81-102.

12 (9) "QUALIFIED WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION
13 EDUCATOR" MEANS A PERSON WITH THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE AND
14 EDUCATION, AND WHO SATISFIES ALL REQUIREMENTS OF STATE AND
15 FEDERAL LAW OR THE INSTITUTION'S POLICY, TO BE AN EDUCATOR AT THE
16 INSTITUTION.

17 **23-81-102. Recruitment of wildland fire prevention and**
18 **mitigation educators program - report - definition.** (1) SUBJECT TO
19 AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE BOARD SHALL ADMINISTER THE
20 RECRUITMENT OF WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION
21 EDUCATORS PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE
22 QUALIFIED WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION EDUCATORS.

23 (2) THE BOARD SHALL ALLOCATE MONEY TO INSTITUTIONS THAT
24 DELIVER A WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION DEGREE OR
25 CERTIFICATE PROGRAM OR COURSE. THE INSTITUTIONS MAY USE THE
26 MONEY TO:

27 (a) PROVIDE THE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS NECESSARY TO

1 ATTRACT AND RETAIN QUALIFIED WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION AND
2 MITIGATION EDUCATORS; AND

3 (b) TRAIN PERSONS TO BECOME QUALIFIED WILDLAND FIRE
4 PREVENTION AND MITIGATION EDUCATORS.

5 (3) (a) FOR THE 2023-24 AND THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEARS,
6 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR
7 ALLOCATION BY THE BOARD FOR USE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION
8 (2) OF THIS SECTION TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE
9 GENERAL FUND IN EACH STATE FISCAL YEAR, OF WHICH ONE PERCENT MAY
10 BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM. ANY AMOUNT OF THE
11 APPROPRIATION THAT IS UNENCUMBERED OR UNEXPENDED AT THE END OF
12 EITHER THE 2023-24 STATE FISCAL YEAR OR THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL
13 YEAR:

14 (I) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND;

15 (II) MAY BE USED BY THE BOARD IN THE SUBSEQUENT STATE
16 FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

17 (III) MUST NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN
18 THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

19 (b) IN ADDITION TO THE APPROPRIATION IN THIS SECTION, THE
20 BOARD MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS
21 FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PROGRAM.

22 (4) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE JANUARY
23 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER IN WHICH THE COMMITTEE MEETS, THE
24 DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A SUMMARIZED REPORT REGARDING THE
25 PROGRAM TO THE COMMITTEE. NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136
26 (11)(a)(I), THE REPORTING REQUIREMENT IN THIS SUBSECTION (4)
27 CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

1 **SECTION 8. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
2 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
3 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
4 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
5 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
6 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
7 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
8 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
9 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.