

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

**BILL E**

LLS NO. 23-0145.01 Megan McCall x4215

**SENATE BILL**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Ginal and Story**, Danielson, Jaquez Lewis

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Cutter and Will**, Lynch

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING RESOURCES FOR FIRE INVESTIGATIONS TO ENHANCE**  
102              **PUBLIC SAFETY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**  
103              **PRIORITIZING FUNDING FOR WILDLAND FIRE INVESTIGATIONS.**

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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 directs the director of the division of fire prevention and control (division) within the department of public safety to report on the investigation of wildland fires in the state and creates the fire investigation fund to fund fire investigations. The division must prioritize money in the fund for

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.

wildland fire investigations.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1203.5,  
3 **amend** (3) as follows:

4           **24-33.5-1203.5. Powers and duties of director - report.**

5 (3) Commencing in 2014, the director shall report annually to the  
6 wildfire matters review committee created in section 2-3-1602 ~~C.R.S.~~,  
7 regarding the current nature and magnitude of the state's wildfire  
8 situation; THE NUMBER OF WILDLAND FIRE INVESTIGATIONS THE DIVISION  
9 CONDUCTED IN THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR AND THE STATUS OF  
10 EACH INVESTIGATION; the status of wildfire preparedness and prescribed  
11 burns in the state, including available resources; and the challenges to  
12 addressing the state's wildfire threat. The report required by this  
13 subsection (3) is exempt from the automatic expiration described in  
14 section 24-1-136 (11).

15           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33.5-1236 as  
16 follows:

17           **24-33.5-1236. Fire investigation fund - created - rules.** (1) THE  
18 FIRE INVESTIGATION FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "FUND",  
19 IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY. THE FUND CONSISTS OF ANY  
20 MONEY THAT MAY BE APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND BY THE GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY, ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS,  
22 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS THAT ARE TRANSMITTED TO THE STATE  
23 TREASURER AND CREDITED TO THE FUND, AND MONEY TRANSFERRED TO  
24 THE FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION. THE STATE  
25 TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE

1 DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE FUND TO THE FUND.

2 (2) (a) MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO  
3 THE DIVISION, AND THE DIVISION MAY EXPEND MONEY FROM THE FUND TO  
4 INVESTIGATE THE CAUSES AND ORIGINS OF FIRES IN THE STATE AND TO:

5 (I) FUND STATE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROVIDING SUPPORT TO  
6 LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE AND ORIGIN OF  
7 FIRES;

8 (II) REIMBURSE FIRE INVESTIGATORS WHO ARE NOT EMPLOYED BY  
9 THE DIVISION BUT ARE ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION AND COORDINATION  
10 OF THE DIVISION AT AN ESTABLISHED RATE FOR ASSISTING IN FIRE CAUSE  
11 AND ORIGIN INVESTIGATIONS OUTSIDE OF JURISDICTION;

12 (III) ENSURE FIRE ORIGIN AND CAUSE DATA IS ACCURATELY  
13 COLLECTED, ANALYZED, AND DISSEMINATED; AND

14 (IV) UTILIZE THE DATA COLLECTED AS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION  
15 TO MORE EFFECTIVELY PREVENT OR MITIGATE FUTURE FIRES.

16 (b) THE DIVISION SHALL PRIORITIZE THE USE OF MONEY FROM THE  
17 FUND FOR WILDLAND FIRE INVESTIGATIONS AND MAY USE MONEY FROM  
18 THE FUND FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF OTHER FIRES, SUBJECT TO THE  
19 AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND MONEY FOR SUCH USE;  
20 EXCEPT THAT EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND  
21 MUST BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE INVESTIGATION OF WILDLAND  
22 FIRES.

23 (3) THE DIRECTOR MAY ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY TO  
24 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

25 (4) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL ANNUALLY TRANSFER  
26 SUFFICIENT FUNDS, AS DETERMINED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE  
27 ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE

1 FUND FOR USE BY THE DIVISION TO DEFRAY THE COSTS TO THE DIVISION IN  
2 IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS  
3 SECTION.

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