



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Memorandum

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TO: Members of the Wildfire Matters Review Committee

FROM: Anne Wallace, Senior Research Analyst, 303-866-4364
Christina Van Winkle, Senior Environmental Analyst, 303-866-6289
Ryan Dudley, Research Analyst, 303-866-3687

SUBJECT: Wildfire Matters Review Committee Charge Memo

Summary

This memorandum provides an overview of the 2021 membership of the Wildfire Matters Review Committee (committee), the origin and charge of the committee, bill request deadlines and procedures, and information regarding committee staff and the committee website.

Origin and Charge of the Committee

Pursuant to Section 2-3-1602, C.R.S., the committee is charged with reviewing and proposing legislation or other policy changes related to wildfire prevention, mitigation, and related matters, including public safety and forest health issues. In passing Senate Bill 13-082, which created the Wildfire Matters Review Committee, the General Assembly intended for the committee to be a permanent interim committee through which the General Assembly reviews state policies and resources addressing wildfire prevention and mitigation and the successful implementation and execution of such policies.

During the 2018 legislative session, the General Assembly passed [Senate Bill 18-039](#), which repealed obsolete provisions, provided funding for legislative staffing, and extended the repeal date of the committee to September 1, 2025. The committee did not meet in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most recently, [Senate Bill 21-012](#), passed in 2021, *requires* the committee to review policy changes to maximize the utilization of wildland fire services through the inmate disaster relief program.

Committee Membership

There are ten members on the Wildfire Matters Review Committee. Members serve two-year terms. The committee is chaired by a Senate member in even-numbered years and by a House member in odd-numbered years.

The ten legislators appointed to the committee for the 2021 interim are:

<i>Representatives</i>	<i>Senators (Vice Chair TBD)</i>
Representative Lisa Cutter, Chair	Senator Don Coram
Representative Mike Lynch	Senator Stephen Fenberg
Representative Julie McCluskie	Senator Joann Ginal
Representative Donald Valdez	Senator Pete Lee
Representative Perry Will	Senator Cleave Simpson

Meeting Dates

The committee is required to meet at least once each interim and is authorized to meet up to six times and take two field trips during the 2021 interim. As of this writing, the meeting schedule has not been decided.

Committee Recommendations to Legislative Council

Bill limits and requests. The committee may recommend up to five bills to the Legislative Council. Committee members must request bills during a single meeting set for requesting legislation, and bill requests must be approved by a majority of the committee members.¹

Bill request deadlines. The Legislative Council has established deadlines for the 2021 interim for requesting, drafting, and approving bill drafts under consideration by the committee.² The meeting to request bill drafts must be held by **September 20, 2021**. Committee members must submit drafting information to the Office of Legislative Legal Services (OLLS) bill drafter within three calendar days of the meeting at which bills were requested. There must be at least 42 days in between the meeting at which legislation is requested and the meeting at which it is approved. To allow time for Legislative Council Staff to prepare the fiscal analysis of the proposal,³ there must be 21 days between the date the proposed bill is finalized with OLLS staff and the date of the meeting to approve the proposed bills. The last day to finalize bill drafts with OLLS staff is **October 11, 2021**. The committee must meet and vote on the bill drafts by **November 1, 2021**.

¹Joint Rule 24A (d) (2.7) (A).

²Joint Rule 24A (d) (2.6).

³As required by House Bill 15-1335

Legislative Council review. The Legislative Council is scheduled to meet in mid-November to approve interim committee draft legislation. Bills approved by the Legislative Council do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session. Bills not approved by the Legislative Council may be introduced during the regular session, but such bills would count against a member's five bill limit.⁴ Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to approval by the Legislative Council.⁵

Committee Staff and Website

Committee staff contacts. Legislative Council Staff is charged with assisting the committee in its activities. If you have any questions or would like any additional information concerning the committee, please send an e-mail wildfiremattersreview@state.co.us. You may also contact any of the following individual staff members:

- Anne Wallace, Senior Research Analyst, anne.wallace@state.co.us, 303-866-4364
- Christina Van Winkle, Senior Environmental Analyst, christina.vanwinkle@state.co.us, 303-866-6289
- Ryan Dudley, Research Analyst, ryan.dudley@state.co.us, 303-866-3687

Fiscal note staff contact. Legislative Council Staff provides fiscal notes for committee legislation and other analyses requested by the committee. To discuss the fiscal impact of legislation or to request a fiscal analysis, please contact:

- Christina Van Winkle, Senior Environmental Analyst, christina.vanwinkle@state.co.us, 303-866-6289

Legal services staff contacts. Additionally, attorneys at the Office of Legislative Legal Services provide legal and bill drafting assistance to the committee. For assistance in these areas, please contact:

- Bob Lackner, Managing Senior Attorney, bob.lackner@state.co.us, 303-866-4350
- Megan Waples, Senior Attorney, megan.waples@state.co.us, 303-866-4348
- Richard Sweetman, Senior Attorney, richard.sweetman@state.co.us, 303-866-4333

Website. Documents distributed during the meetings and meeting summaries may be found on the committee website at:

<http://leg.colorado.gov/committees/wildfire-matters-review-committee/2021-regular-session>.

⁴Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (D).

⁵Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (E).