



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 22-0190
Prime Sponsors:

Date: October 22, 2021
Bill Status: Bill Request
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Bill Topic: LOCAL GOVERNMENT WILDFIRE EVACUATION & MITIGATION PLANS

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue | <input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity |

The bill requires counties and municipalities with land in the Wildland-Urban Interface to adopt and regularly update wildfire evacuation and mitigation plans. Beginning in FY 2022-23, the bill increases local government expenditures on an ongoing basis, and may increase state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the bill draft requested by the Wildfire Matters Review Committee.

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires counties and municipalities with land in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) to adopt wildfire evacuation and wildfire mitigation plans by January 1, 2023. The plans must address wildfire mitigation strategies, cover all structures that are built in the land area on or after the effective date of this bill, and include procedures for the evacuation of people, pets and large animals in response to a wildfire event. Local governments must amend the plans within five years of initial adoption to include all structures in the WUI land areas, and continue to update the plans at least every five years thereafter.

Background

The WUI includes land areas where human development meets wildland vegetation, including grasslands, shrublands and forests. Individual wildfire risk levels vary by locality, but the majority of Coloradans, roughly 53% of the state's population, live in areas with at least some WUI risk.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2022-23, the bill may increase workload in the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Local Affairs and the Colorado State Forest Service to provide local governments with technical assistance when adopting and updating their wildfire evacuation and wildfire mitigation plans. It is assumed that this workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations, and that departments will seek additional resources through the annual budget process, if necessary.

Local Government

Beginning in FY 2022-23, costs will increase for local governments that have land in the WUI and have not adopted wildfire evacuation and wildfire mitigation plans. Costs will increase for all local governments with land in the WUI to update the plans every five years. Costs may include, among other things, staff time to create and update the plans, mapping software, community engagement, and enforcing the requirements of the plans. These costs have not been estimated for this fiscal note and will vary based on jurisdiction.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Local Affairs
Municipalities	Public Safety