



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

BILL 5: WILDFIRE PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF GUIDELINES

Prime Sponsors:

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Fiscal note status: The bill reflects the bill draft requested by the Wildfire Matters Review Committee.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules for public safety power shutoff guidelines for electric utilities.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas, primarily through FY 2026-27:

- State Expenditures
- Local Government

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$374,889 to the Department of Regulatory Agencies.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts**

Type of Impact¹	Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$419,341	\$256,001
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE

¹ Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the tables below.

**Table 1A
State Expenditures**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Cash Funds	\$374,889	\$211,549
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$44,452	\$44,452
Total Expenditures	\$419,341	\$256,001
Total FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in the Department of Regulatory Agencies to adopt rules for public safety power shutoff guidelines for investor-owned electric utilities to help prevent wildfires caused by electricity infrastructure. The PUC must convene a stakeholder group to help develop the guidelines, including the establishment of community resources centers when power is deactivated. The utility must maintain information about the community resource centers on its website, provide as much notice as possible about a public safety power shutoff, and conduct community outreach. The PUC may update its guidelines every three years, and the bill encourages municipal-owned utilities and cooperative electric associations to also adopt guidelines.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Department of Regulatory Agencies by \$420,000 in FY 2025-26 and \$260,000 in FY 2026-27, paid from the Fixed Utility Fund. Workload will also increase in the Department of Public Safety. These impacts are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below.

**Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Regulatory Agencies**

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Personal Services	\$208,989	\$208,989
Operating Expenses	\$2,560	\$2,560
Capital Outlay Costs	\$13,340	\$0
Contractor	\$150,000	\$0
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$44,452	\$44,452
Total Costs	\$419,341	\$256,001
Total FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE

Department of Regulatory Agencies

The PUC in DORA requires 2.0 FTE to convene the stakeholder group, create the guidelines, and conduct the required rulemaking in FY 2025-26, and to conduct ensuing utility proceedings in FY 2026-27 to evaluate utility proposals for compliance with the new rules. Standard operating and capital outlay costs are included. Workload may increase in future years to update the guidelines as necessary.

Contractor

The Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate requires \$150,000 in FY 2025-26 to hire a contractor to provide expertise in rulemaking activities and regulatory activities. The office may require additional resources in subsequent years; as the amount depends on the complexity and frequency of regulatory proceedings, any additional costs will be addressed through the annual budget process.

Legal Services

Legal services, provided by the Department of Law, may be required in future years as the guidelines are updated. Any increase will be addressed through the annual budget process.

Department of Public Safety

The bill minimally increases workload in the department to participate in the stakeholder group.

Centrally Appropriated Costs

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, leased space, and indirect cost assessments, are shown in the expenditure table above.

Local Government

To the extent that municipal-owned utilities adopt public safety power shutoff guidelines, workload will increase for that municipality. Because they may base their guidelines on those adopted by the PUC, any expenditures are expected to be minimal.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$374,889 from the Fixed Utility Fund to the Department of Regulatory Agencies, and 2.0 FTE, as follows:

- \$224,889 and 2.0 FTE to the Public Utilities Commission; and
- \$150,000 to the Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Municipalities	Regulatory Agencies
Law	Public Safety	

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).