

**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.

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

BILL B

LLS NO. 23-0141.01 Megan McCall x4215

SENATE BILL

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Simpson and Ginal, Danielson, Jaquez Lewis, Story

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Will and Lynch,

Senate Committees

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WILDFIRE DETECTION**
102 **TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM PILOT PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION**
103 **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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 requires the center of excellence for advanced technology aerial firefighting (center of excellence) in the division of fire prevention and control in the department of public safety to establish one or more remote camera technology pilot programs. The program may include the use of artificial

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intelligence technologies. The center of excellence must acquire or contract for a system of remote pan-tilt-zoom cameras and associated tools to provide a live feed of information that can detect, locate, and confirm ignition in the wildland-urban interface. The center of excellence may acquire or contract for artificial intelligence technologies to assist in the detection, containment, and monitoring of wildfires. The center of excellence must report to the wildfire matters review committee on the system's effectiveness and potential for more widespread use in the state. The bill appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to implement the program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1228, **add**
3 (2.5)(f) as follows:

4 **24-33.5-1228. Colorado firefighting air corps - creation -**
5 **powers - aircraft acquisitions required - center of excellence -**
6 **unmanned aircraft systems study and pilot program - Colorado**
7 **firefighting air corps fund - creation - report - rules - repeal.**

8 (2.5) (f) (I) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2024, THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
9 SHALL IMPLEMENT ONE OR MORE PILOT PROGRAMS USING REMOTE
10 CAMERA TECHNOLOGY TO DETECT, IDENTIFY, OR CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE
11 OF WILDFIRES IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE. THE PILOT PROGRAM
12 OR PROGRAMS MAY INCLUDE THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
13 TECHNOLOGIES.

14 (II) TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS, SUBJECT
15 TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SHALL
16 ACQUIRE OR CONTRACT FOR A SYSTEM OF REMOTE PAN-TILT-ZOOM
17 CAMERAS AND ASSOCIATED TOOLS THAT PROVIDE A LIVE FEED OF
18 INFORMATION THAT CAN DISCOVER, LOCATE, AND CONFIRM IGNITION;
19 MONITOR FIRE BEHAVIOR THROUGH CONTAINMENT; PROVIDE ENHANCED
20 SITUATIONAL AWARENESS FOR EVACUATION AND FIRE RESPONSE

1 ACTIVITIES; AND ENSURE CONTAINED FIRES ARE MONITORED
2 APPROPRIATELY THROUGH THEIR DEMISE. THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
3 MAY ACQUIRE OR CONTRACT FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
4 TECHNOLOGIES TO ASSIST IN THE DETECTION, CONTAINMENT, AND
5 MONITORING OF WILDFIRES AS PART OF THE PILOT PROGRAM OR
6 PROGRAMS.

7 (III) THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SHALL CONSULT AND
8 COLLABORATE WITH OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES AND OTHER
9 STAKEHOLDERS IN THE FIRE SERVICE TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION AND
10 OPERATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS. AGENCIES OF STATE
11 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION, ASSISTANCE,
12 AND SITE ACCESS AS NECESSARY TO ALLOW THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
13 TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS.

14 (IV) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE AUGUST
15 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SHALL REPORT
16 ON THE PILOT PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS TO THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW
17 COMMITTEE OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE. THE REPORT MUST ANALYZE
18 THE INFORMATION RECEIVED THROUGH THE CAMERA SYSTEM AND, IF
19 IMPLEMENTED, THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM, THEIR VALUE IN
20 RESPONDING TO WILDFIRES OR POTENTIAL WILDFIRES, THE POTENTIAL FOR
21 MORE WIDESPREAD USE IN COLORADO, AND THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF
22 THE SYSTEMS IN RESPONDING TO WILDFIRES AND POTENTIAL WILDFIRES.
23 NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I),
24 THE REQUIREMENT TO REPORT IN THIS SUBSECTION (2.5)(f)(IV)
25 CONTINUES FOR THE DURATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

26 (V) THIS SUBSECTION (2.5)(f) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER
27 1, 2027.

1 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2023-24 state fiscal year,
2 \$2,000,000 is appropriated to the department of public safety for use by
3 the division of fire prevention and control. This appropriation is from the
4 general fund. To implement this act, the division may use this
5 appropriation for the remote camera technology pilot program.

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

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

BILL C

LLS NO. 23-0143.01 Megan McCall x4215

HOUSE BILL

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lynch and Will, Cutter, Snyder

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Simpson, Danielson, Ginal, Jaquez Lewis, Story

House Committees

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN**
102 **COLORADO, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING AN**
103 **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN THE COLORADO STATE FOREST**
104 **SERVICE AND CREATING A STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR THE**
105 **PURCHASE OF QUALIFYING ITEMS USED IN TIMBER PRODUCTION**
106 **AND FOREST HEALTH.**

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 creates the timber,

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.

forest health, and wildfire mitigation industries workforce development program (program) in the state forest service. The program provides partial reimbursement to timber businesses and forest health or wildfire mitigation entities for the costs of hiring interns. The forest service must adopt rules, policies, and procedures for the program, including criteria for an internship to qualify, best practices for recruiting and selecting interns to increase representation of historically underrepresented communities in the industries, the criteria to use in selecting qualified interns, the required educational experience for an intern, and administrative requirements for the program.

For income tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, but before January 1, 2028, a business involved in forestry, logging, the timber trade, the production of wood and secondary products, or forest health and wildfire mitigation activities in Colorado may claim a credit against state income tax for 20% of the cost incurred by the taxpayer in purchasing certain equipment, vehicles, and equipment infrastructure. The total aggregate credit in any one income tax year is limited to \$10,000. Any amount of the credit that exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability is not refundable but may be carried forward for up to 5 years.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-31-320 as
3 follows:

4 **23-31-320. Timber, forest health, and wildfire mitigation**
5 **industries workforce development program - creation - rules -**
6 **legislative declaration - definitions.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS,
7 DETERMINES, AND DECLARES THAT:

8 (a) FINDING QUALIFIED AND TRAINED EMPLOYEES IS A SIGNIFICANT
9 CHALLENGE FOR THE STATE'S TIMBER, FOREST HEALTH, AND WILDFIRE
10 MITIGATION INDUSTRIES, AND IT IS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE
11 TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE TO YOUNGER WORKERS WHO ARE INTERESTED
12 IN BEGINNING CAREERS IN THE TIMBER, FOREST HEALTH, AND WILDFIRE
13 MITIGATION INDUSTRIES;

14 (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 NOT-FOR-PROFIT ENTITY LOCATED OR OPERATING IN
15 COLORADO THAT CONCERNS ITSELF WITH FOREST HEALTH OR WILDFIRE
16 MITIGATION ACTIVITIES INCLUDING PRESCRIBED BURNING AS PROVIDED
17 FOR IN SECTION 24-33.5-1217 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) "INTERNSHIP PROGRAM" MEANS THE TIMBER, FOREST HEALTH,
23 AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION INDUSTRIES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
24 PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

25 (d) "TIMBER BUSINESS" MEANS A FOR-PROFIT BUSINESS ENTITY
26 INCORPORATED OR LOCATED IN COLORADO THAT CONCERNS ITSELF WITH
27 FORESTRY, LOGGING, THE TIMBER TRADE, THE PRODUCTION OF WOOD

1 PRODUCTS SUCH AS FURNITURE, AND SECONDARY PRODUCTS SUCH AS
2 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 OF HIRING INTERNS. NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2024,
9 THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL PROMULGATE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND
10 GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTERING THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM. THE
11 POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES 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 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE ABILITY OF THE BUSINESS OR
15 ENTITY TO EFFECTIVELY SUPERVISE AN INTERN AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR
16 AN INTERN TO GET MEANINGFUL WORK EXPERIENCE;

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

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

21 (II) THE INTERNSHIP CANNOT EXCEED SIX MONTHS IN DURATION
22 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 QUALIFIED INTERNS TO INCREASE REPRESENTATION OF 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 QUALIFIED INTERNS,
7 INCLUDING THE REQUIRED EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR AN INTERN AND
8 THE ABILITY OF THE INTERN TO PERFORM MEANINGFUL WORK FOR THE
9 BUSINESS;

10 (e) THE PROCESS AND TIMETABLE FOR SELECTING QUALIFIED
11 BUSINESSES AND ENTITIES AND QUALIFIED INTERNS;

12 (f) THE ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRACKING INTERNSHIP
13 COSTS; AND

14 (g) THE PROCESS BY WHICH A TIMBER BUSINESS OR FOREST
15 HEALTH OR WILDFIRE MITIGATION ENTITY MUST SEEK REIMBURSEMENT
16 FROM THE STATE FOR THE INTERNSHIP COSTS IT HAS ASSUMED.

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

1 MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR MORE THAN ONE INTERN IN THE SAME FISCAL
2 YEAR. HOWEVER, NO TIMBER BUSINESS OR FOREST HEALTH OR WILDFIRE
3 MITIGATION ENTITY MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR MORE THAN THREE
4 INTERNSHIPS IN THE SAME FISCAL YEAR.

5 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 39-22-549 as
6 follows:

7 **39-22-549. Credit for purchase of equipment, vehicles, and**
8 **structures used in the timber, forest health, and wildfire mitigation**
9 **industries - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.** (1) (a) IN
10 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 39-21-304 (1), WHICH REQUIRES EACH BILL
11 THAT CREATES A NEW TAX EXPENDITURE TO INCLUDE A TAX PREFERENCE
12 PERFORMANCE STATEMENT AS PART OF A STATUTORY LEGISLATIVE
13 DECLARATION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES
14 THAT THE GENERAL LEGISLATIVE PURPOSES OF THE TAX CREDIT CREATED
15 IN THIS SECTION ARE TO:

16 (I) IMPROVE INDUSTRY COMPETITIVENESS FOR THE STATE'S TIMBER
17 INDUSTRY AND PROVIDE TAX RELIEF FOR CERTAIN BUSINESSES ENGAGED
18 IN TIMBER, FOREST HEALTH, AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION ACTIVITIES,
19 THEREBY IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF COLORADO'S FORESTS AND
20 REDUCING THE RISK OF CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE; AND

21 (II) REDUCE BASIC OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR BUSINESSES OR
22 ENTITIES ENGAGED IN THE STATE'S TIMBER, FOREST HEALTH, AND
23 WILDFIRE MITIGATION INDUSTRIES BY ALLOWING SUCH BUSINESSES OR
24 ENTITIES A SPECIFIED CREDIT AGAINST THEIR INCOME TAXES FOR THEIR
25 PURCHASE OF MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, AND EQUIPMENT
26 INFRASTRUCTURE USED TO MAKE WOOD PRODUCTS OR CONDUCT
27 PRESCRIBED BURNING OR OTHER SCIENCE-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT

1 PRACTICES, THEREBY PROMOTING THE STATE'S TIMBER, FOREST HEALTH,
2 AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION INDUSTRIES.

3 (b) IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE STATE
4 AUDITOR TO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CREDIT, THE
5 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SHALL TRACK THE NUMBER OF CREDITS
6 ALLOWED, THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE CREDITS ALLOWED, THE AVERAGE
7 AMOUNT OF EACH CREDIT ALLOWED, AND THE NUMBER OF QUALIFYING
8 ITEMS PURCHASED FOR WHICH THE CREDIT WAS ALLOWED.

9 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

10 (a) "EQUIPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE" MEANS ANY EQUIPMENT USED
11 IN THE MANUFACTURING OF WOOD PRODUCTS AND INCLUDES, WITHOUT
12 LIMITATION, DRY KILNS, SAWMILLS, DEBARKERS, PELLET MILLS, AND
13 STRUCTURES NECESSARY TO ENCLOSE LOGGING OR OTHER OPERATIONS
14 ENGAGED IN BY A TAXPAYER.

15 (b) "QUALIFYING ITEMS" MEANS:

16 (I) ANY MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT THAT IS USED FOR THE
17 HARVESTING, SKIDDING, PROCESSING, AND LOADING OF TREES;

18 (II) ANY TRUCK OR TRAILER THAT IS USED FOR THE HAULING OF
19 LOGS;

20 (III) ANY EQUIPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE THAT IS USED IN THE
21 MANUFACTURING OF WOOD PRODUCTS;

22 (IV) ANY EQUIPMENT THAT IS USED IN SMALL-DIAMETER TREE
23 REMOVAL AND PROCESSING; AND

24 (V) ANY EQUIPMENT THAT IS USED IN CONDUCTING PRESCRIBED
25 BURNING AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-33.5-1202 (8.3).

26 (c) "TAXPAYER" MEANS ANY SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP, PARTNERSHIP,
27 LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION, SUBCHAPTER S CORPORATION, OR

1 REGULAR CORPORATION DOING BUSINESS IN THE STATE THAT CONCERNS
2 ITSELF WITH FORESTRY, LOGGING, THE TIMBER TRADE, THE PRODUCTION
3 OF WOOD PRODUCTS SUCH AS FURNITURE, AND SECONDARY PRODUCTS
4 SUCH AS WOOD PULP FOR THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY, OR WITH FOREST
5 HEALTH AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION ACTIVITIES INCLUDING PRESCRIBED
6 BURNING AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 24-33.5-1217 OR OTHER
7 SCIENCE-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

8 (3) WITH RESPECT TO TAX YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER
9 JANUARY 1, 2023, BUT PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2028, THERE IS ALLOWED TO
10 ANY TAXPAYER A CREDIT AGAINST THE TAX IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE 22
11 IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY PERCENT OF THE COST INCURRED BY THE
12 TAXPAYER IN PURCHASING A QUALIFYING ITEM, NOT TO EXCEED TEN
13 THOUSAND DOLLARS IN THE AGGREGATE FOR ALL QUALIFYING ITEMS
14 PURCHASED IN ANY ONE INCOME TAX YEAR.

15 (4) (a) IF A QUALIFYING ITEM THAT WAS PRODUCED IN COLORADO
16 IS AVAILABLE, THE TAX CREDIT ALLOWED BY THIS SECTION MAY ONLY BE
17 CLAIMED FOR QUALIFYING ITEMS PRODUCED IN COLORADO. IF A
18 QUALIFYING ITEM PRODUCED IN COLORADO IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE TAX
19 CREDIT ALLOWED BY THIS SECTION MAY BE CLAIMED REGARDLESS OF
20 WHERE THE QUALIFYING ITEM IS PRODUCED.

21 (b) IF AN ELECTRIC-POWERED QUALIFYING ITEM IS AVAILABLE, THE
22 TAX CREDIT ALLOWED BY THIS SECTION MAY ONLY BE CLAIMED FOR
23 ELECTRIC-POWERED QUALIFYING ITEMS. IF AN ELECTRIC-POWERED
24 QUALIFYING ITEM IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE TAX CREDIT MAY BE CLAIMED
25 REGARDLESS OF THE POWER SOURCE OF THE QUALIFYING ITEM.

26 (5) IF THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF
27 THIS SECTION EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT OF INCOME TAXES DUE ON THE

1 INCOME OF THE TAXPAYER IN THE INCOME TAX YEAR FOR WHICH THE
2 CREDIT IS BEING CLAIMED, THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT NOT USED AS AN
3 OFFSET AGAINST INCOME TAXES IN SAID INCOME TAX YEAR IS NOT
4 REFUNDABLE BUT MAY BE CARRIED FORWARD AS A CREDIT AGAINST
5 SUBSEQUENT YEARS' TAX LIABILITY FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING FIVE
6 YEARS AND SHALL BE APPLIED FIRST TO THE EARLIEST INCOME TAX YEARS
7 POSSIBLE. ANY AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT THAT IS NOT USED DURING SAID
8 PERIOD IS NOT REFUNDABLE TO THE TAXPAYER.

9 (6) TO CLAIM A CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION, A TAXPAYER MUST
10 SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE DOCUMENTATION IN A FORM
11 SATISFACTORY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE THAT DEMONSTRATES
12 THE TAXPAYER PURCHASED THE QUALIFYING ITEM AND THE COST OF THE
13 ITEM PURCHASED BY THE TAXPAYER.

14 (7) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2036.

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

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

BILL D

LLS NO. 23-0144.01 Sarah Lozano x3858

HOUSE BILL

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Cutter, Lynch, Will

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Story, Danielson, Jaquez Lewis

House Committees

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING UPDATES TO THE COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE**
102 **SEEDLING TREE NURSERY.**

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 requires the Colorado state forest service to make certain upgrades and improvements to its seedling tree nursery in order to expand its capacity and its ability to contribute to reforestation efforts in the state. The general assembly is required to appropriate money to the Colorado state university system for the 2023-24 state fiscal year for allocation to the state forest service.

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.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-319, **amend**
3 (6) and (8); and **add** (2.5), (3.5), and (4.5) as follows:

4 **23-31-319. Forest service seedling tree nursery - necessary**
5 **upgrades and improvements - definition - funding - reports - repeal.**

6 (2.5) **Field upgrades.** TO UPGRADE THE FIELDS WHERE THE NURSERY
7 GROWS BARE-ROOT TREES AND SHRUBS, THE NURSERY SHALL:

8 (a) INSTALL A NEW PUMP AND PUMP HOUSE;

9 (b) OVERHAUL THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM; AND

10 (c) GRADE AND IMPROVE THE ROADS TO AND WITHIN THE FIELDS.

11 (3.5) **Seed storage cooler.** TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITY, SECURITY,
12 AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF SEED STORAGE, THE NURSERY SHALL
13 PURCHASE A NEW SEED STORAGE COOLER.

14 (4.5) **Delivery trucks.** TO IMPROVE THE TIMELINESS OF
15 DELIVERIES AND ELIMINATE THE COST OF RENTING DELIVERY TRUCKS, THE
16 NURSERY SHALL PURCHASE TWO REFRIGERATED BOX TRUCKS.

17 (6) **Appropriation.** For the ~~2022-23~~ 2023-24 state fiscal year, the
18 general assembly shall appropriate money to the Colorado state university
19 system for allocation to and expenditure by the Colorado state forest
20 service to fund improvements to the nursery AND to hire professional
21 staff. ~~and to conduct the capacity, expertise, and infrastructure analysis as~~
22 ~~specified in subsection (5) of this section.~~

23 (8) **Repeal.** This section is repealed, effective January 1, ~~2025~~
24 2026.

25 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
26 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the

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

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

BILL E

LLS NO. 23-0145.01 Megan McCall x4215

SENATE BILL

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Ginal and Story, Danielson, Jaquez Lewis

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Cutter and Will, Lynch

Senate Committees

House Committees

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.**

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.

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.