

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0201.01 Alison Killen x4350

SENATE BILL 26-089

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Cutter and Baisley,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Velasco,

Senate Committees

Agriculture & Natural Resources

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE RECREATION OF THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW**
102 **COMMITTEE.**

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>.)

The bill recreates the wildfire matters review committee (interim committee) to succeed the wildfire matters review committee that repealed on September 1, 2025. The purpose of the interim committee is to review the implementation and effectiveness of state policies and resources for wildfire prevention and mitigation and to consider and recommend legislation or other policy changes to address all matters

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

relating to wildfire prevention and mitigation including public safety, forest health, and cooperation with appropriate federal agencies and local governments.

The interim committee consists of 10 members of the general assembly appointed as follows:

- 5 members of the senate: 3 appointed by the president of the senate and 2 appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and
- 5 members of the house of representatives: 3 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and 2 appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.

The appointing authorities must make their original appointments to the interim committee no later than June 1, 2026. The term of appointment is 2 years. Incumbent members may be reappointed to the committee.

The bill requires the interim committee to meet at least twice and allows the committee to take 2 field trips during every interim. The committee's duties are to:

- Review the implementation and effectiveness of state policies and resources for wildfire prevention and mitigation;
- Seek presentations and comments from individuals with professional expertise relating to wildfire prevention and mitigation and from representatives of relevant state agencies, local governments, private industry, and impacted communities; and
- Recommend legislation or other policy changes to address matters related to wildfire prevention and mitigation, including public safety, forest health, and cooperation with appropriate federal agencies and local governments.

The bill allows the committee to recommend up to 5 bills during each interim.

The committee is repealed, effective June 30, 2031.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **recreate and**
3 **reenact, with amendments,** part 16 of article 3 of title 2 as follows:

4 **PART 16**

5 **WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

6 **2-3-1601. Legislative declaration.**

1 (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

2 (a) WILDFIRES ARE PART OF THE NATURAL CYCLE OF COLORADO'S
3 FORESTS, YET INCREASINGLY POSE A SEVERE THREAT TO HUMAN LIFE AND
4 PROPERTY;

5 (b) PEOPLE ARE ATTRACTED TO THE FOREST AND MOUNTAIN AREAS
6 OF THE STATE AND INCREASINGLY CHOOSE TO MAKE THEIR HOMES IN
7 WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE "WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE", WHERE
8 WILDLAND AREAS MEET RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT;

9 (c) THESE AND OTHER RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS LOCATED IN
10 NUMEROUS PARTS OF THE STATE ARE REGULARLY THREATENED BY CLOSE
11 PROXIMITY TO WILDFIRES AND, TRAGICALLY, DURING THE WINTER OF 2021
12 AND THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF 2012, COLORADO WILDFIRES RESULTED
13 IN THE LOSS OF LIFE AND EXTENSIVE PROPERTY DAMAGE, INCLUDING THE
14 DESTRUCTION OF HOMES, AFFECTING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE; AND

15 (d) SINCE WILDFIRES CAUSE ANNUAL HARM TO MANY AREAS OF
16 THE STATE AND THE RESIDENTS OF THOSE AREAS, WILDFIRE PREVENTION
17 AND MITIGATION IS A MATTER OF EXTREME AND STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE
18 THAT DEMANDS CRITICAL ATTENTION FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
19 A REGULAR BASIS.

20 (2) ACCORDINGLY, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT THE
21 RECREATION OF THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE IS CRITICAL
22 TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A PUBLIC FORUM FOR LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY OF
23 STATE POLICIES AND RESOURCES ADDRESSING WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND
24 MITIGATION WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

25 **2-3-1602. Wildfire matters review committee - creation -**
26 **membership - duties - repeal.**

27 (1) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 2-3-303.3, THE WILDFIRE

1 MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE IS CREATED.

2 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO REVIEW THE
3 IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF STATE POLICIES AND RESOURCES
4 FOR WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION AND TO RECOMMEND
5 LEGISLATION OR OTHER POLICY CHANGES TO ADDRESS ALL MATTERS
6 RELATED TO WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION INCLUDING PUBLIC
7 SAFETY, FOREST HEALTH, AND COOPERATION WITH APPROPRIATE FEDERAL
8 AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

9 (3) (a) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF TEN MEMBERS OF THE
10 GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

11 (I) FIVE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY
12 THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE
13 MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE; AND

14 (II) FIVE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THREE
15 MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES AND TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY
17 LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

18 (b) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL MAKE THEIR INITIAL
19 APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2026.

20 (c) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT THE CHAIR OF
21 THE COMMITTEE IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS AND THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE
22 COMMITTEE IN ODD-NUMBERED YEARS. THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES SHALL APPOINT THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE IN
24 ODD-NUMBERED YEARS AND THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE IN
25 EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS.

26 (4) EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE SERVES AT THE PLEASURE
27 OF THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY AND CONTINUES UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS

1 APPOINTED. THE TERM OF APPOINTMENT IS TWO YEARS. THE TERM OF
2 EACH MEMBER TERMINATES ON THE CONVENING DAY OF THE FIRST
3 REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT FOLLOWING THEIR
4 APPOINTMENT OR REAPPOINTMENT TO THE COMMITTEE; EXCEPT THAT THE
5 TERM OF EACH MEMBER APPOINTED INITIALLY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
6 (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION TERMINATES ON THE CONVENING DATE OF THE
7 FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE
8 APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL MAKE ALL NECESSARY APPOINTMENTS
9 SUBSEQUENT TO TERMINATION AS SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION (4) AS
10 SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER THE RELEVANT CONVENING DATE.
11 INCUMBENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MAY BE REAPPOINTED WITHOUT
12 LIMITATION.

13 (5) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SERVE WITHOUT
14 COMPENSATION; EXCEPT THAT EACH MEMBER IS ENTITLED TO
15 REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES IN CONNECTION
16 WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MEMBER'S DUTIES AND RECEIVES THE
17 SAME PER DIEM AS OTHER MEMBERS OF INTERIM COMMITTEES IN
18 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS.

19 (6) (a) THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT LEAST TWICE AND MAY
20 TAKE UP TO TWO FIELD TRIPS EVERY INTERIM. THE CHAIR MAY CALL SUCH
21 ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO
22 COMPLETE ITS DUTIES.

23 (b) THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL SCHEDULE THE FIRST
24 MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE NO LATER THAN JULY 31 OF EACH YEAR.

25 (7) THE COMMITTEE MAY RECOMMEND UP TO FIVE BILLS DURING
26 EACH INTERIM. LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE MUST BE
27 TREATED AS LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED BY AN INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR

1 PURPOSES OF APPLICABLE DEADLINES, BILL INTRODUCTION LIMITS, AND
2 ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE JOINT RULES OF THE GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY.

4 (8) THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

5 (a) REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF STATE
6 POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION;

7 (b) SEEK PRESENTATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS
8 WITH PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE RELATING TO WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND
9 MITIGATION, AND FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES,
10 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE INDUSTRY, AND IMPACTED COMMUNITIES;
11 AND

12 (c) RECOMMEND LEGISLATION OR OTHER POLICY CHANGES TO
13 ADDRESS MATTERS RELATED TO WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION
14 INCLUDING PUBLIC SAFETY, FOREST HEALTH, AND COOPERATION WITH
15 APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

16 (9) THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE
17 LEGAL SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMITTEE.

18 (10) THIS PART 16 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2031.

19 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
20 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
22 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
23 institutions.