

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT

LLS NO. 25-0335.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

SENATE BILL

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Daugherty,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Weinberg and Brown,

Senate Committees

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL-INTELLIGENCE-ENABLED
102 DETECTION COMPONENTS TO MITIGATE WILDFIRES.

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 requires the division of fire prevention and control (division) in the department of public safety (department) to establish public-private agreements with one or more private partners, by which agreements the state may allocate responsibility or risk to one or more private partners to develop and operate wildfire detection components. The bill also creates the front line innovation and response efficiency cash

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.

fund (FIRE fund) in the state treasury. The money in the FIRE fund is annually appropriated to the department to be expended by the division for the purposes of the bill.

In current law, money in the unused state-owned real property fund is continuously appropriated to the department of personnel for several purposes, including paying for public-private agreements and associated costs. Of the money that is appropriated for this purpose, the bill requires the general assembly to transfer the following amounts to the FIRE fund:

- For the 2025-26 state fiscal year, up to \$1,000,000;
- For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$2,000,000; and
- For the 2027-28 state fiscal year, \$3,000,000.

The department is required to include information concerning the division's activities under the bill in the department's annual report to the legislative subject matter committees.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds that:

4 (a) Colorado has experienced a sharp rise in wildfire activity in
5 recent years, including the 20 largest fires and the 5 most destructive fires
6 in the state's history;

7 (b) The growing size, duration, intensity, costs, and impacts of
8 wildfires create a dangerous environment that endangers firefighters and
9 threatens entire communities;

10 (c) In response, the division of fire prevention and control within
11 the department of public safety has collaborated with local fire
12 departments, counties, and federal partners to develop more effective and
13 efficient wildfire preparedness and response strategies;

14 (d) These efforts include adopting cutting-edge technologies such
15 as wildfire detection cameras that are designed to quickly identify
16 potential threats, ensure faster response times, and enhance firefighter
17 safety;

1 (e) So far, the existing network of more than 40 cameras deployed
2 across Colorado has proven highly valuable;

3 (f) These cameras provide on-demand visual intelligence that
4 allows officials to swiftly assess emerging incidents, coordinate with
5 jurisdictional agencies, and efficiently direct critical air and ground
6 resources to the right locations;

7 (g) The integration of wildfire cameras with artificial intelligence,
8 or "AI", can play a crucial role in safely and efficiently increasing the use
9 of prescribed fires;

10 (h) AI-integrated cameras provide multiple vantage points to
11 detect and pinpoint fire activity, monitor fires, and support fire managers
12 in executing prescribed fire projects; and

13 (i) AI technology is an invaluable asset in improving forest health
14 and reducing wildfire risks, benefitting communities as well as fire
15 management agencies.

16 (2) The general assembly therefore declares that the safety of the
17 people and property within the state is served by the use of AI-integrated
18 cameras by the division of fire prevention and control within the
19 department of public safety.

20 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33.5-1218.5
21 as follows:

22 **24-33.5-1218.5. Statewide coverage network - definitions -**
23 **public-private agreements - front line innovation and response**
24 **efficiency cash fund - detection components.** (1) AS USED IN THIS
25 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

26 (a) "CAMERA STATION" MEANS ONE OR MORE CAMERAS AND
27 ASSOCIATED HARDWARE THAT ARE CAPABLE OF:

1 (I) GENERATING A THREE-HUNDRED-SIXTY-DEGREE PANORAMIC
2 VISUAL FEED; AND

3 (II) UTILIZING PAN, TILT, AND TWENTY TIMES OR GREATER ZOOM
4 OPERATIONS.

5 (b) "DETECTION COMPONENT" MEANS AN
6 ARTIFICIAL-INTELLIGENCE-ENABLED WILDFIRE DETECTION AND
7 INTELLIGENCE SOLUTION THAT INCLUDES A COHESIVE, INTERCONNECTED
8 COLLECTION OF CAMERA STATIONS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DETECTION
9 CAPABILITIES, SOFTWARE, AND COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES.

10 (c) "FUND" MEANS THE FRONT LINE INNOVATION AND RESPONSE
11 EFFICIENCY CASH FUND CREATED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION.

12 (d) "PRESCRIBED FIRE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION
13 29-22.5-102 (7).

14 (e) "PRIVATE PARTNER" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION
15 24-94-102 (6).

16 (f) "PUBLIC-PRIVATE AGREEMENT" MEANS AN AGREEMENT
17 BETWEEN THE STATE AND ONE OR MORE PRIVATE PARTNERS BY WHICH THE
18 STATE MAY ALLOCATE RESPONSIBILITY OR RISK TO ONE OR MORE PRIVATE
19 PARTNERS TO DEVELOP AND OPERATE A DETECTION COMPONENT.

20 (2) IN CONNECTION WITH ITS POWERS AND DUTIES CONCERNING
21 THE PROTECTION OF AREAS IN THE STATE AT HIGH RISK OF FIRE, THE
22 DIVISION SHALL ESTABLISH PUBLIC-PRIVATE AGREEMENTS WITH PRIVATE
23 PARTNERS TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE COVERAGE NETWORK OF
24 DETECTION COMPONENTS.

25 (3) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, THE DIVISION SHALL ISSUE
26 A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM PRIVATE ENTITIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF
27 THIS SECTION. THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS MUST SEEK PROPOSALS FOR

1 A DETECTION COMPONENT THAT CAN BE PROCURED AS A COMPREHENSIVE
2 SERVICE PROVIDED BY A PRIVATE PARTNER TO ENSURE THAT THE
3 DEPLOYMENT, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE DETECTION
4 COMPONENTS ARE PERFORMED BY THE PRIVATE PARTNER.

5 (4) A DETECTION COMPONENT DEPLOYED PURSUANT TO THIS
6 SECTION MUST:

7 (a) BE PLACED IN A LOCATION THAT ENABLES TRIANGULATION OF
8 CAMERA STATIONS AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE PRECISE
9 LOCATIONS OF FIRES DETECTED BY THE STATEWIDE COVERAGE NETWORK
10 OF DETECTION COMPONENTS;

11 (b) PROVIDE A LIVE FEED OF INFORMATION THAT CAN DISCOVER,
12 LOCATE, AND CONFIRM IGNITION OF A FIRE, WHICH FEED REFRESHES AT
13 LEAST ONCE PER MINUTE AND IS MONITORED BY AN ARTIFICIAL
14 INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM CAPABLE OF IDENTIFYING WILDFIRE IGNITIONS AT
15 A DISTANCE OF AT LEAST TEN MILES;

16 (c) MONITOR FIRE BEHAVIOR;

17 (d) PROVIDE ENHANCED SITUATIONAL AWARENESS FOR
18 EVACUATION AND FIRE RESPONSE ACTIVITIES;

19 (e) ENSURE THAT CONTAINED AND PRESCRIBED FIRES ARE
20 MONITORED APPROPRIATELY; AND

21 (f) INCLUDE A SOFTWARE INTERFACE FOR FIRE AGENCIES AND
22 OTHER END USERS THAT ALLOWS FOR REAL-TIME FIRE DETECTION ALERTS,
23 THREE-HUNDRED-SIXTY-DEGREE CAMERA STATION VIEWS, AND ZOOM
24 CAPABILITY AS WELL AS OTHER NECESSARY MONITORING FUNCTIONALITY.

25 (5) (a) THE FRONT LINE INNOVATION AND RESPONSE EFFICIENCY
26 CASH FUND IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY. THE FUND CONSISTS OF
27 MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND FROM THE UNUSED STATE-OWNED

1 REAL PROPERTY FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-82-102.5 (5)(c)(III) AND
2 ANY OTHER MONEY THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE OR
3 TRANSFER TO THE FUND FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. THE MONEY
4 IN THE FUND IS ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT TO BE
5 EXPENDED BY THE DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

6 (b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND
7 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
8 FUND TO THE FUND. ANY MONEY REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF
9 A STATE FISCAL YEAR REMAINS IN THE FUND.

10 (c) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
11 GRANTS, AND DONATIONS TO PAY THE COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS
12 SECTION. ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE
13 DEPARTMENT SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.

14 (6) IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES OF
15 REFERENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
16 INCLUDE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DIVISION
17 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR.

18 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-82-102.5, **amend**
19 (5)(c)(I) introductory portion; and **add** (5)(c)(III) as follows:

20 **24-82-102.5. Unused state-owned real property - cash fund -**
21 **legislative declaration - definitions.** (5) (c) (I) EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED IN
22 SUBSECTION (5)(c)(III) OF THIS SECTION, the money in the unused
23 state-owned real property fund is continuously appropriated to the
24 department for:

25 (III) OF THE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT
26 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(c)(I)(B) OF THIS SECTION, THE GENERAL
27 ASSEMBLY SHALL TRANSFER THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS TO THE FRONT

1 LINE INNOVATION AND RESPONSE EFFICIENCY CASH FUND CREATED IN
2 SECTION 24-33.5-1218.5 (5) TO BE EXPENDED BY THE DIVISION OF FIRE
3 PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO
4 PAY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION
5 24-33.5-1218.5:

6 (A) ON JANUARY 1, 2026, FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR,
7 UP TO ONE MILLION DOLLARS;

8 (B) ON JULY 1, 2026, FOR THE 2026-27 STATE FISCAL YEAR, TWO
9 MILLION DOLLARS; AND

10 (C) ON JULY 1, 2027, FOR THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR THREE
11 MILLION DOLLARS.

12 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
13 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
14 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
15 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
16 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
17 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
18 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
19 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
20 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.