



HB22-1011

SHORT TITLE: Wildfire Mitigation Incentives for Local Governments

LONG TITLE: Concerning the establishment of a state grant program that provides funding to local governments that dedicate resources for wildfire mitigation purposes

SPONSORS: Representatives Cutter and Snyder/Senators Story and Lee

COMMITTEES: House Energy & Environment Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To provide funding to match local government funds for wildfire mitigation

PROPONENTS OF THE BILL: Wildfire Matters interim committee

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: State Forest Service (dept. of Higher Ed); local govts., insurance companies, dept. public safety, local fire departments, water providers in fire-prone areas

BACKGROUND: This bill was the result of discussions in the interim Wildfire Committee

Is this bill necessary this year? Depends on if state money comes from federal source with a deadline

How does the bill change current law? It provides another source of funding for wildfire mitigation to supplement other grant funded activities

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No

How is the bill implemented? The fund receives appropriations from the legislature and may accept donations from other sources into the fund in the state Treasurer's office. The program is administered by the State Forest Service. By March 1, 2023, the Forest Service must adopt policies, procedures and criteria for grant applications and prescribe reporting requirements. No more than 5% may be used for administration of the fund.

Practical considerations: There are other funding mechanisms in statute as well as federal funds during previous sessions. How will this program integrate and coordinate with other programs?

Fiscal Impact: None identified by the state as there is no specified source of funds.