



HB22-1007

SHORT TITLE: Assistance Landowner Wildfire Mitigation

LONG TITLE: Concerning wildfire mitigation assistance for landowners

SPONSORS: Representatives Valdez, D and Lynch/Senators Simpson and Lee

COMMITTEES: House Energy & Environment Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To provide incentives to landowners to mitigate fire hazards on their property

PROPONENTS OF THE BILL: Wildfire Matters Review committee

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDER: public safety agencies, local governments, homeowners' associations, insurance companies, water providers in fire-prone areas

BACKGROUND: Current law allows landowners to claim an income tax deduction for expenses of mitigating property to prevent fire. The bill replaces that deduction with a tax credit and provides grants to local governments, tribes, and non-profit organizations to conduct outreach to landowners to make them aware of the program.

Is this bill necessary this year? No deadlines exist

How does the bill change current law? It adds additional outreach through funding to local governments and non-profits to do outreach to landowners. It also replaces an income tax deduction for landowners with a tax credit.

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No

How is the bill implemented? The bill creates the Wildfire Mitigation Resources and Best Practices Grant Program in the state Forest Service to be used to conduct outreach among landowners regarding wildfire mitigation best practices. The grant will be available to local governments, tribal agencies, and nonprofit organizations beginning January 1, 2024. The Forest Service must submit an annual report to the Wildfire Matters Review Committee on the grant program beginning on or before September 1, 2025. The grant program is repealed January 1, 2029. The bill also replaces the current state income tax deduction for wildfire mitigation expenses with a state income tax credit, beginning in tax year 2023 through tax year 2025. The credit is available to landowners who meet income requirements and is equal to 25 percent of the taxpayer cost for wildfire mitigation expenses, up to \$625 per year.

Practical Considerations: Will additional public awareness improve mitigation efforts?

Fiscal Impact: Money from the General Fund, although no specific appropriation amount is included