



COLORADO
WATER CONGRESS
INFORM | CONVENE | TRAIN | ACT

SB21-237

SHORT TITLE: Create Forest Health Council in Department of Natural Resources

LONG TITLE: Concerning creation of the Colorado forest health council in the department of natural resources, and, in connection therewith, repealing the forest health advisory council within the state forest service

SPONSORS: Senator Donovan/Rep. McCluskie

COMMITTEES: Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: The bill repeals the Forest Health Advisory Council in the State Forest service and establishes the Forest Health Council in the Dept. of Natural Resources.

PROPONENTS OF THE BILL: Unknown

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Dept of Natural Resources, Dept. of Public Safety, State Forester, Dept. of Higher Ed., Local communities adjacent to forests, State fire officials, timber industry, water planners and providers

BACKGROUND: The Forest Health Advisory Council went through a Sunset Review during the past year and was recommended for continuation in SB 21-136. That bill has passed the Senate and is scheduled for House Ag 4/19. This bill, introduced three days ago, moves the responsibility to the Dept. of Natural Resources, establishes a new council and outlines the responsibilities and membership of the new body. There are some internal politics at work which are currently unknown.

Is this bill necessary this year? There is no deadline, but this is the Sunset review year for the existing Forest Health Advisory Council.

How does the bill change current law? Changes are primarily in the responsibilities and oversight of the Council.

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No

How is the bill implemented? The existing Forest Health Advisory Council is repealed, and a new body will take its place under the Dept. of Natural Resources, with new members appointed.

Practical considerations: Are there efficiencies and institutional knowledge that will be lost in the transfer and will the new group be able to respond in a timely manner to this year's fire season.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal note.