

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis
House Appropriations Committee

Concerning support to increase prescribed burns.

Prime Sponsors:

Senators Cutter; Marchman
Representatives Velasco; Weinberg

Date Prepared:

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Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Required, Amendment in Packet

General Fund Impact

Dependent on Gift, Grants, and Donations

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 05/01/25.

No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill.

Amendments in This Packet

J.002 Staff-prepared appropriation amendment

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill requires but does not contain an appropriation clause.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

J.002

Staff amendment **J.002** (attached) appropriates a total of \$153,025 General Fund to the Department of Public Safety for FY 2025-26. The appropriation reflects 1.2 FTE.

Points to Consider

General Fund Impact

The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2025-26 based on the March 2025 Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) revenue forecast. The budget package includes \$18.2 million in set-asides for legislation outside of the package (see table below). The budget package accounts for the 15.0 percent reserve associated with the placeholders.

General Fund Appropriation Placeholders for Other 2025 Legislation	
Description	FY 2025-26 Appropriation
Juvenile diversion, deflection, or detention	\$10,000,000
General Assembly legislative priorities	6,521,739
Voter approved initiatives	1,700,000
Total	\$18,221,739

This bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$153,025 for FY 2025-26, reducing the \$18.2 million set aside by the same amount.

Technical Issues

As noted in the Technical Note on page 5 of the Revised Fiscal Note, the bill does not specify that money in the Prescribed Fire Claims Cash Fund can be spent on the administrative needs of the program. Additionally, there is no provision specifying the use of the fund for indirect costs. Therefore, all program expenses and administrative overhead costs are assumed to be paid by General Fund.

Section 24-33.5-1240 (3), C.R.S., specifies: "(3) Subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly of sufficient money for the division to administer the fund, ...". While this makes the provision of an appropriation for administrative expenses optional, if the General Assembly wishes for this policy to be implemented, the appropriation should be provided.