



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1009: VEGETATIVE FUEL MITIGATION

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Mauro

Sen. Cutter

Fiscal Analyst:

Colin Gaiser, 303-866-2677

colin.gaiser@coleg.gov

Published for: House Ag., Water & Natural Res.

Drafting number: LLS 25-0269

Version: Initial Fiscal Note

Date: January 22, 2025

Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill allows a fire protection district to establish a program requiring the removal of vegetative fuel on private property.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- Local Government

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill allows a fire protection district to establish a program requiring the removal of dead or dry plant material from private property that can burn and contribute to a fire, including leaves, grass, shrubs, ground litter, dead leaves, and fallen pine needles. The fire district's program must adopt policies consistent with the 2024 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, or the standards and codes adopted by the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code Board.

A district may assess a fine for owners and occupiers of private property that fail to remove vegetative fuel from the property at least ten days after a second written notice. The fine must be approximately equal to the cost of removing the vegetative fuel, must not exceed \$300 per incident, and is waived if the vegetative fuel is removed within 10 days of a fine assessment. Districts must use fine revenue only to remove vegetative fuel on private property, and must prioritize use of the money to assist with vegetative-fuel removal for low-income, single, senior, or disabled owners and occupiers.

The bill also requires districts to establish a process for owners and occupiers of private property to protest a fine, and requires districts to adopt rules and policies for a vegetative fuel mitigation program only after public notice and comment.

Local Government

For local governments and fire protection districts that choose to implement a vegetative fuel mitigation program, the bill increases workload and expenditures to adopt required rules and policies, fulfill public notice requirements, issue notices, enforce fines for noncompliance, and provide assistance in removing vegetative fuel for certain owners and occupiers of private property. While any fines for noncompliance may increase revenue to local governments, the bill requires this revenue to go toward vegetative-fuel removal.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Municipalities
Local Affairs	Public Safety
Fire Chiefs	Special District Association

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).