

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0335.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

SENATE BILL 25-011

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Daugherty,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Weinberg and Brown,

Senate Committees

Transportation & Energy
Finance

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL-INTELLIGENCE-ENABLED**
102 **DETECTION COMPONENTS TO MITIGATE WILDFIRES.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires the division of fire prevention and control (division) in the department of public safety (department) to establish public-private agreements with one or more private partners, by which agreements the state may allocate responsibility or risk to one or more private partners to develop and operate wildfire detection components. The bill also creates the front line innovation and response efficiency cash

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

fund (FIRE fund) in the state treasury. The money in the FIRE fund is annually appropriated to the department to be expended by the division for the purposes of the bill.

In current law, money in the unused state-owned real property fund is continuously appropriated to the department of personnel for several purposes, including paying for public-private agreements and associated costs. Of the money that is appropriated for this purpose, the bill requires the general assembly to transfer the following amounts to the FIRE fund:

- For the 2025-26 state fiscal year, up to \$1,000,000;
- For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$2,000,000; and
- For the 2027-28 state fiscal year, \$3,000,000.

The department is required to include information concerning the division's activities under the bill in the department's annual report to the legislative subject matter committees.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds that:

4 (a) Colorado has experienced a sharp rise in wildfire activity in
5 recent years, including the 20 largest fires and the 5 most destructive fires
6 in the state's history;

7 (b) The growing size, duration, intensity, costs, and impacts of
8 wildfires create a dangerous environment that endangers firefighters and
9 threatens entire communities;

10 (c) In response, the division of fire prevention and control within
11 the department of public safety has collaborated with local fire
12 departments, counties, and federal partners to develop more effective and
13 efficient wildfire preparedness and response strategies;

14 (d) These efforts include adopting cutting-edge technologies such
15 as wildfire detection cameras that are designed to quickly identify
16 potential threats, ensure faster response times, and enhance firefighter
17 safety;

1 (e) So far, the existing network of more than 40 cameras deployed
2 across Colorado has proven highly valuable;

3 (f) These cameras provide on-demand visual intelligence that
4 allows officials to swiftly assess emerging incidents, coordinate with
5 jurisdictional agencies, and efficiently direct critical air and ground
6 resources to the right locations;

7 (g) The integration of wildfire cameras with artificial intelligence,
8 or "AI", can play a crucial role in safely and efficiently increasing the use
9 of prescribed fires;

10 (h) AI-integrated cameras provide multiple vantage points to
11 detect and pinpoint fire activity, monitor fires, and support fire managers
12 in executing prescribed fire projects; and

13 (i) AI technology is an invaluable asset in improving forest health
14 and reducing wildfire risks, benefitting communities as well as fire
15 management agencies.

16 (2) The general assembly therefore declares that the safety of the
17 people and property within the state is served by the use of AI-integrated
18 cameras by the division of fire prevention and control within the
19 department of public safety.

20

21 SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1228, add
22 (2.5)(f) as follows:

23 24-33.5-1228. Colorado firefighting air corps - creation -
24 powers - aircraft acquisitions required - center of excellence -
25 unmanned aircraft systems study and pilot program - Colorado
26 firefighting air corps fund - creation - report - deployment of
27 detection components - rules - definitions. (2.5) (f) (I) AS USED IN THIS

1 SUBSECTION (2.5)(f), UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

2 (A) "CAMERA STATION" MEANS ONE OR MORE CAMERAS AND
3 ASSOCIATED HARDWARE THAT ARE CAPABLE OF GENERATING A
4 THREE-HUNDRED-SIXTY-DEGREE PANORAMIC VISUAL FEED AND UTILIZING
5 PAN, TILT, AND TWENTY TIMES OR GREATER ZOOM OPERATIONS.

6 (B) "DETECTION COMPONENT" MEANS AN
7 ARTIFICIAL-INTELLIGENCE-ENABLED WILDFIRE DETECTION AND
8 INTELLIGENCE SOLUTION THAT INCLUDES A COHESIVE, INTERCONNECTED
9 COLLECTION OF CAMERA STATIONS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DETECTION
10 CAPABILITIES, SOFTWARE, AND COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES.

11 (C) "END USER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AUTHORIZED BY A
12 VENDOR AGREEMENT TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE LIVE FEED OF A DETECTION
13 COMPONENT.

14 (D) "FUND" MEANS THE FIRE TECHNOLOGY CASH FUND CREATED
15 IN SUBSECTION (2.5)(f)(IV) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (E) "PRESCRIBED FIRE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION
17 29-22.5-102 (7).

18 (F) "VENDOR AGREEMENT" MEANS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
19 DIVISION AND ONE OR MORE QUALIFIED VENDORS, WHICH AGREEMENT
20 REQUIRES THE VENDOR TO COMMUNICATE TO EACH END USER THE
21 REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 18-7-801 CONCERNING CRIMINAL INVASION OF
22 PRIVACY, ALLOWS THE STATE TO ALLOCATE RESPONSIBILITY OR RISK TO
23 ONE OR MORE VENDORS TO DEVELOP AND OPERATE A DETECTION
24 COMPONENT, AND DEFINES THE SCOPE OF SUCH RESPONSIBILITY OR RISK.

25 (II) (A) AS NEEDED, THE DIVISION MAY ISSUE A REQUEST FOR
26 QUALIFICATIONS FROM PRIVATE ENTITIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS
27 SECTION. THE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS MUST SEEK PROPOSALS FOR

1 A DETECTION COMPONENT THAT CAN BE PROCURED AS A COMPREHENSIVE
2 SERVICE PROVIDED BY A VENDOR TO ENSURE THAT THE DEPLOYMENT,
3 OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE DETECTION COMPONENTS ARE
4 PERFORMED BY THE VENDOR.

5 (B) THE DIVISION SHALL DEVELOP A LIST OF THE MOST QUALIFIED
6 VENDORS THAT SUBMIT PROPOSALS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
7 (2.5)(f)(II)(A) OF THIS SECTION.

8 (C) THE DIVISION MAY ESTABLISH VENDOR AGREEMENTS WITH
9 ONE OR MORE OF THE VENDORS THAT SUBMIT PROPOSALS PURSUANT TO
10 SUBSECTION (2.5)(f)(II)(A) OF THIS SECTION.

11 (III) A DETECTION COMPONENT DEPLOYED PURSUANT TO THIS
12 SECTION MUST:

13 (A) BE PLACED IN A LOCATION THAT ENABLES TRIANGULATION OF
14 CAMERA STATIONS AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE PRECISE
15 LOCATIONS OF FIRES DETECTED BY THE STATEWIDE COVERAGE NETWORK
16 OF DETECTION COMPONENTS;

17 (B) PROVIDE A LIVE FEED OF INFORMATION THAT CAN DISCOVER,
18 LOCATE, AND CONFIRM IGNITION OF A FIRE, WHICH FEED REFRESHES AT
19 LEAST ONCE PER MINUTE AND IS MONITORED BY AN ARTIFICIAL
20 INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM CAPABLE OF IDENTIFYING WILDFIRE IGNITIONS AT
21 A DISTANCE OF AT LEAST TEN MILES;

22 (C) MONITOR FIRE BEHAVIOR;

23 (D) PROVIDE ENHANCED SITUATIONAL AWARENESS FOR
24 EVACUATION AND FIRE RESPONSE ACTIVITIES;

25 (E) ENSURE THAT CONTAINED AND PRESCRIBED FIRES ARE
26 MONITORED APPROPRIATELY;

27 (F) INCLUDE A SOFTWARE INTERFACE FOR FIRE AGENCIES AND

1 OTHER END USERS THAT ALLOWS FOR REAL-TIME FIRE DETECTION ALERTS,
2 THREE-HUNDRED-SIXTY-DEGREE CAMERA STATION VIEWS, AND ZOOM
3 CAPABILITY AS WELL AS OTHER NECESSARY MONITORING FUNCTIONALITY;

4 AND

5 (G) USE PIXELATION OR ANOTHER BLURRING TECHNOLOGY TO
6 PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF PRIVATELY OWNED, HUMAN-MADE STRUCTURES.

7 (IV) (A) THE FIRE TECHNOLOGY CASH FUND IS CREATED IN THE
8 STATE TREASURY. THE FUND CONSISTS OF == ANY == MONEY THAT THE
9 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER TO THE FUND FOR
10 THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. THE MONEY IN THE FUND IS ANNUALLY
11 APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT TO BE EXPENDED BY THE DIVISION
12 FOR UTILIZATION OF FIRE DETECTION RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT
13 TECHNOLOGIES, DEPLOYMENT OF DETECTION COMPONENTS THROUGH
14 VENDOR AGREEMENTS, AND UTILIZATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS THAT
15 ENABLE ADVANCEMENT IN FIRE DETECTION AND MITIGATION PRACTICES.

16 (B) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND
17 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
18 FUND TO THE FUND. ANY MONEY REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF
19 A STATE FISCAL YEAR REMAINS IN THE FUND.

20 (C) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
21 GRANTS, AND DONATIONS TO PAY THE COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS
22 SECTION. ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE
23 DEPARTMENT SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.

24 (V) IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES OF
25 REFERENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
26 INCLUDE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DIVISION
27 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR.

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2 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
3 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
4 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
5 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
6 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
7 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
8 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
9 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
10 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.