

CHAPTER 398

NATURAL RESOURCES

HOUSE BILL 19-1006

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) McLachlan and Carver, Arndt, Bird, Buentello, Caraveo, Catlin, Cutter, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Galindo, Geitner, Hansen, Hooton, Jackson, Jaquez Lewis, Kipp, Lontine, McCluskie, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Roberts, Singer, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Tipper, Titone, Valdez D., Weissman, Will, Becker; also SENATOR(S) Fields, Bridges, Coram, Court, Donovan, Fenberg, Gardner, Ginal, Hisey, Holbert, Lee, Lundeen, Moreno, Priola, Rankin, Story, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Winter, Woodward, Garcia.

AN ACT

CONCERNING MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF WILDFIRES WITHIN WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREAS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CLARIFYING THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT THAT STATE FUNDING OF THE EXISTING FOREST RESTORATION AND WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM BE INCREASED AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-310, **amend** (8.5)(a); and **add** (1.5)(b)(V) and (8.8) as follows:

23-31-310. Forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program - legislative declaration - technical advisory panel - definitions - repeal. (1.5) **Legislative declaration.** The general assembly hereby:

(b) Determines that:

(V) GIVEN THE CHALLENGING CONDITIONS OF COLORADO'S FORESTS AND THE IMMINENT RISKS OF CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE, IT IS CRITICAL THAT STATE FUNDING OF THE GRANTS PROGRAM BE INCREASED FOR THE 2019-20 STATE FISCAL YEAR AND THAT GRANT MONEY BE EXPENDED ON AN EXPEDITED BASIS TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE TO FULFILL THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

(8.5) **Forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program cash fund.** (a) There is hereby created in the state treasury the forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program cash fund. The department of higher education shall administer the fund, which consists of:

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(I) All money transferred by the treasurer as specified in section 39-29-109.3 (2)(k) and subsection (8.7) of this section; ~~and~~

(II) All money that was in the wildfire risk reduction fund created in section 36-7-405 prior to the repeal of that fund. As soon as possible after December 31, 2017, the state treasurer shall transfer the unencumbered fund balance of the wildfire risk reduction fund as of month-end close on December 31, 2017, to the forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program cash fund.

(III) ANY OTHER MONEY APPROPRIATED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(8.8) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT ANY ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE 2019-20 STATE FISCAL YEAR TO THE FUND CREATED IN SUBSECTION (8.5)(a) OF THIS SECTION BE EXPENDED ON GRANTS THAT WILL SUPPORT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EFFECTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS TO LIFE, PROPERTY, AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CAUSED BY WILDFIRE.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.3-103, **add** (5) as follows:

23-3.3-103. Annual appropriations. (5) THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS ARTICLE 3.3 SHALL NOT APPLY TO APPROPRIATIONS MADE TO THE FOREST RESTORATION AND WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 23-31-301 (8.5)(a).

SECTION 3. Appropriation. For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education for allocation to the board of governors of the Colorado state university system to be deposited into the forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program cash fund created in section 23-31-310 (8.5), C.R.S., for the use of the forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program created in section 23-31-310, C.R.S. This appropriation is from the general fund.

SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 31, 2019