



**Legislative Council Staff**  
*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

# Final Fiscal Note

<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 24-0424	<b>Date:</b>	July 18, 2024
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Sen. Cutter; Jaquez Lewis Rep. Snyder	<b>Bill Status:</b>	Deemed Lost
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**Bill Topic:** LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISASTER-RELATED PROGRAMS

<b>Summary of Fiscal Impact:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill would have created a program to support local governments in wildfire risk mitigation. It would have increased state expenditures beginning in FY 2024-25.

**Appropriation Summary:** For FY 2024-25, the bill included an appropriation of \$186,135 to the Department of Higher Education.

**Fiscal Note Status:** The final fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill. The bill was deemed lost in the House Appropriations Committee on May 9, 2024; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 24-009**

		<b>Budget Year FY 2024-25</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2025-26</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		-	-
<b>Expenditures</b>	General Fund	\$186,135	\$182,340
	Total FTE	0.4 FTE	0.4 FTE
<b>Transfers</b>		-	-
<b>Other Budget Impacts</b>	General Fund Reserve	\$27,920	\$27,351

## Summary of Legislation

The bill directs the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) at Colorado State University to create a pilot program supporting county efforts to remove slash, which is the residue created by forest operations or wildfire risk mitigation efforts. CSFS must select counties to participate in the pilot program and provide knowledge and resources to facilitate slash removal. The pilot program repeals on September 1, 2027, pending a sunset review.

## State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in CSFS by about \$190,000 in FY 2024-25 and \$180,000 in FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27, paid from the General Fund. Expenditures are shown in Table 2 and detailed below.

**Table 2**  
**Expenditures Under SB 24-009**

	<b>FY 2024-25</b>	<b>FY 2025-26</b>
<b>Colorado State Forest Service</b>		
Personal Services	\$29,308	\$25,839
Operating Expenses	\$512	\$512
Grant Program	\$150,000	\$150,000
Employee Insurance and Supplemental Retirement	\$6,315	\$5,989
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$186,135</b>	<b>\$182,340</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>0.4 FTE</b>	<b>0.4 FTE</b>

**Colorado State Forest Service.** CSFS requires 0.4 FTE term-limited staff to develop and administer the grant program beginning in FY 2024-25 until the pilot program sunsets in September 2027. Standard operating and capital outlay costs are included, and costs are prorated in FY 2024-25 for the bill's effective date. The bill does not specify the amount of grant funding or the duration of the slash removal pilot program. The fiscal note assumes that three counties will receive grants of \$50,000 each, for a total of \$150,000 in grant awards each year, subject to available appropriations. Grant amounts are at the discretion of the General Assembly.

## Other Budget Impacts

**General Fund reserve.** Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

## **Local Government**

The bill increases revenue and expenditures in counties that receive grant awards under the slash removal pilot program.

## **Effective Date**

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

## **State Appropriations**

For FY 2024-25, the bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$186,135 to the Department of Higher Education, and 0.4 FTE, for use by the Colorado State Forest Service at Colorado State University.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties	Forest Service	Higher Education
Natural Resources	Public Safety	

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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: [leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes](https://leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes).