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Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 21-0682 Date: September 14, 2021
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Rankin; Fenberg Bill Status: Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: COLORADO FIRE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:
- State Revenue
- State Expenditure
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- Local Government
- Statutory Public Entity

The bill creates the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS) to provide regional and statewide coordinated response for emergency incidents. The bill increase state expenditures annually beginning in FY 2021-22.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2021-22, the bill requires an appropriation of \$1,108,800 to the Department of Public Safety.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 21-166

Table with 3 columns: Category, Budget Year FY 2021-22, and Out Year FY 2022-23. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total Expenditures, Total FTE), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS) in the Division of Fire Prevention and Control in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to provide for the coordinated initial response of emergency responders to emergency incidents. The division must establish, implement, and maintain the mutual aid system. The CCRMAS will serve four roughly equal geographic districts, each with a mutual aid coordinator to manage mutual aid plans for fire and emergency responders, and to coordinate mutual aid requests. The system must also maintain a state coordination center responsible for the overall management of regional and statewide mutual aid systems, and to oversee district coordinators.

Under current law, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in the Division of Homeland Security in the DPS maintains the statewide All-Hazards Resource Mobilization System to mobilize, track, allocate, and demobilize emergency and disaster resources, and to ensure that a requesting unit of government receives proper equipment and qualified personnel. This bill requires that the CCRMAS collaborate with OEM to develop and maintain the mobilization system and ensure sufficient and effective integration of statewide, regional, and local emergency resources mobilization.

The bill modifies the mutual aid statutes to require that an emergency response agency requested to assist another response agency retain operational control over its resources and retain liability over actions of its crews, while serving under the direction of the incident commander of the requesting agency.

Beginning FY 2022-23, the state treasurer must transfer any money in the aviation resources line of the Annual General Appropriations Act (the Long Bill) that would otherwise revert to the General Fund into the Wildfire Preparedness Fund to be used for traditional mitigation efforts, staffing, equipment, and other purposes determined by the division to maximize spending impacts. The division must report to the Joint Budget Committee at least every three years the amounts transferred and spent.

State Transfers and Diversions

Wildfire Preparedness Fund. Beginning FY 2022-23, the treasurer must transfer unspent money from the aviation resources line of the Long Bill to the Wildfire Preparedness Fund, which will divert money that would otherwise revert to the General Fund. The amount of this diversion has not been estimated.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the DPS by \$1.3 million and 7.3 FTE in FY 2021-22, and by \$1.2 million and 8.0 FTE in FY 2022-23 to create and maintain the CCRMAS, and to ensure proper integration with the All-Hazards Resource Mobilization System. Administrative expenses continue in subsequent years. State Expenditures are displayed in Table 2 and described below.

**Table 2
State Expenditures Under SB 21-166**

Cost Components	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
Department of Public Safety		
Personal Services	\$638,812	\$696,886
Operating Expenses	\$10,800	\$10,800
Capital Outlay Costs	\$49,600	-
Additional Health & Insurance Benefits	\$3,212	\$3,212
Vehicles and Travel	\$191,697	\$191,697
Firefighter Uniforms and Equipment	\$114,679	\$8,400
Software License and Maintenance	\$100,000	\$100,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$177,649	\$194,402
Total	\$1,286,449	\$1,205,397
Total FTE	7.3 FTE	8.0 FTE

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Department of Public Safety. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control will employ four district mutual aid coordinators and three central coordinating staff to operate the CCRMAS. The division will also purchase a mutual aid software package with annual license and maintenance costs. The OEM will employ an emergency preparation and communications specialist to coordinate work with the regional and central coordinators and ensure effective mobilization of resources during emergency incidents. New staff costs include standard operating and capital expenses, additional health benefits pursuant to Senate Bill 20-057, vehicle and travel expenses, training, equipment, and communications. Personal services in FY 2021-22 have been prorated for the General Fund pay date shift.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, and leased space are estimated to be \$177,649 in FY 2021-22 and \$194,402 in FY 2022-23.

Local Government

Since rapidly expanding emergency situations and long event durations can overwhelm local resources, state assistance with coordination and resource mobilization will be available during an emergency incident's initial stages, potentially increasing operations efficiency and response success for local emergency responders and local governments. This could potentially help local governments avoid costs that would otherwise occur without such state-level assistance.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect June 22, 2021.

State Appropriations

For FY 2021-22, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$1,108,800 to the Department of Public Safety, and 7.3 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Public Safety